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Biography

ROMANCE
OF
EDWARD VIII & MRS. SIMPSON

*An accurate Life story of Mrs. Simpson & a
True Story of King's Abdication*

Edited by
Miss Margaret G. Wilson

ORIENTAL AGENCY
ISA, Shama Ch. De St., Calcutta.

Foreward

This volume is only a rapid sketch of events—that succeeded so rapidly. These are mostly documentary evidences. Very little is known yet about the truths of the great King, the greatest heroine of the age—and the developments that have taken the world aback. Hardly a record in history of recent period can furnish such a case as is presented to then readers of this volume.

The romance that costs the biggest Throne and Abdication in the shortest period is a great historic event of far-reaching significance. Neither Miss Wallis nor the Great-Ex-King has been as far very truly depicted. This Volume is an attempt to present to the astounded and to the curious, a correct picture.

Authoress

*Stone walls do not a prison make,
Nor Iron bars a cage ;
Minds innocent and quite free
That for a hermitage .
If I have freedom in my love
And in my soul am free,
Angels alone, that sore above,
Enjoy such liberty.*

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ROMANCE OF EDWARD VIII & MRS. SIMPSON

Of Royalty it is unparalleled, of constitutional problems it is the severest. It was matter that touched a reigning monarch—A bachelor king not only who felt that the heavy burden of ruling an Empire could not be borne day to day unless it was shared by a royal consort however constitutionally limited monarch he might have been but also the very institution—the Royalty and the Royal House of Great Britain.

King Edward, in his personal anxiety, tried to take a royal consort to partake with him privately the burden of ruling his vast Empire in the person of a woman—a foreigner unknown, unnamed and a commoner woman whom he had been wooing since when he was Prince of Wales.

Voice of his Royal House about the affairs affected his own personality, touched the dignity of the Britannic Royal House, crisis of an unparalleled constitutional problem in the Constitution of the British Administration and reign was never heard in the public. And to the satisfaction of all, such reticences within Royal House never betrayed any shred of Palace intrigue of which the Hanoverian House is innocent. British Cabinet whispered, closed in press, was reticent. Pontifical cry was heard here and there sounded adamantine. But the King who staked his life in romance continued to

his love for sharing the common lot of his subjects. He was a rebel by nature, bent and temperament, and he thought and moved rebelliously against the tradition which sought to keep him aloof from the crowd. He became the embodiment of good fellowship. His visit to South Wales, His earnestness and passion for the welfare of all classes of the state led him to have direct and personal touch with the conditions that proved far from good. His excursions from the palace were not like the ancient or oriental monarchs or Kings visiting in disguise. His tour was generally regarded as the most important ever undertaken by a British monarch. In the midst of the grim misery of these valleys he was greeted on all sides by the people as a harbinger of hope, a promise of better times. Newspapers emphasised the impression he made on the people and the equally profound impression their condition made on him. During his tour he sent for Mr. Malcolm Stewart, Commissioner for the special Areas, who had recently resigned after submitting to the cabinet an outspoken report. He visited the "dead town" of Dowlais in Glamorganshire, where he said "something ought to be done to find these people employment." And before he left South Wales he had comforted host of thousand of unemployed people by the further statement "that something will be done."

In that momentous visit someone said "There goes the Idle Rich." "Rich but not idle" was the prompt reply from H.M.

The Press comments on King's tour on South Wales was regarded as the most significant as the tour was. News Chronicles wrote in its leader: "The King is above and outside politics. What he has done is in the sole interest of truth and public service.....The man in the street feels that Whitehall stands condemned."

Indeed the code of Royalties in the orient says: "The King sees thru' the ears". He is not to know but to be informed. The King's ministers are His Majesty's advisers and to contrast his personal and representative concern for the well-being of a section of the people with the administrative step of his advisers is a dangerous proceeding.

The Daily Mail comments on the tour in the following manner: 'Something will be done' contrasted the King's energy with what is alleged to be the Government's inertia,

It is to be noted that following the King's tour in South Wales Parliament devoted a few days to the special Areas in which affairs the Royal tour, and was also contemplating the passage of a Bill.

King's Romance : Is it fateful ?

What ended in tragedy on 11th day of December, 1936, and the curtain fell by no other hand than that of the King, which wrought the irrevocable decision, which saved the church, the England pollution, British constitution, its morals, minister's authority over the limited Britannic monarchy. People felt sensation, but as hushed by the curtain sound of pathos or relief as it might meet their ear, began at 1920, when perhaps the Royal hero of the drama knew not what would befall him.

Now in the year 1920, in a foreign country, in an atmosphere of a commoner, innocent of the air of the arid desert of official England, the amber light of love was kindled in the playful young heart of Edward the Prince of Wales, the heir-apparent to the mighty throne. The young Prince of Wales first received in his heart the warmth of love, which ultimately proved fruit of the forbidden tree, soared him

high on the plane of universal humanity, which domain cannot be circumscribed by hide-bound orthodoxy, cannot be ridden by any rigid constitution, which is in itself an institution admitting of no tradition, no precedent, no convention.

True to his self the Prince of Wales has been keeping up the fire which glowed him. Love with him is not a thing apart from his self, it is whole of his self. With the spirit of resignation he ennobled his object of love which in the arid desert of officialdom of England has been renderd into a tragic drama.

Indian history furnishes a Meherunnisa, parallel incident of Royal romance with girl of the name of a foreigner, unknown, unnamed and a commoner. It was the Prince Salim afterwards Jehangir, a Mughal Emperor of India. Prince Salim was the heir-apparent to the throne of Akbar, the mighty Mughal empire of India, contemporary with the Spinster Queen Elizabeth of Tudor House of England. The young girl Meherunnisa was Persian by birth and nationality. Her father, a common trader, came to India with family for trade enterprise, a mere fortune-hunter. The Persian trades man's young daughter Meherunnisa, by dint of her personal charm and beauty, found her passage to the Imperial harem of Agra, when she caught the eye of the young Prince Salim who fell in love with her. But his Imperial father Akbar the Great did not allow the young lover to be united by marriage tie, and commanded the girl to marry a Mughal soldier of same rank in the Imperial Army and sent them to Bengal to settle in. But the young Prince did not forget his Meherunnisa and afterwards at the demise of his Imperial father, Salim, under the

name of Jehangir, ascended the Mughal throne and afterwards married his Meherunnisa as queen under the celebrated name of Nurjehan. Here and there was no clash between Institution and Constitution. Everything passed through smoothly. Mysterious are the ways of Providence, reverse we have witnessed in the case of King Edward of England.

The King said to his Empire through his Premier, "I am prepared to go" and with his going out on 12th day of December, 1936, the situation, full of commotion, passed through a finish and none can make it run back upon its passage.

But the King had romance, the King in man has gone away, the man remains with his glow and order of romance and love ennobling enough.

Edward the Prince of Wales, the heir-apparent to the British throne, sometimes in 1920 entered into romance in a foreign land with an unnamed girl. The Prince of Wales of England, during one of his visits to America, first saw Mrs. Besie Wallis Wingfield Spencer. It was a simple affair and there is no record of it. After long eleven years in 1931 the Prince of Wales and Mrs. Wallis Spencer were formally acquainted and then also under unimportant circumstances.

In 1931 on a Sunday evening Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Thaw remembered that they had a dinner with Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Simpson. The Prince suggested that Mr. & Mrs. Simpson should be invited on telephone to dinner to Fort Belvedere. The Simpson couple accepted the invitation to their delight. They joined in the dinner and the Prince found the couple remarkably charming. Other meetings followed and the acquaintanceship ripened. Mrs. Simpson was a woman most charming and fascinating. The Prince took her company in-

as much as the Prince found in the company of this American woman an oasis in the desert. Who she was? She was a woman married, a divorcee, a commoner, an American to boot.

The Romance : Wind came from the Fort Belvedere

It was the Fort Belvedere that gave the wind out, which first waved Mayfair and American Press. The week-end parties at Fort Belvedere attracted the attention of Mayfair and foreign Press who began to stock-taking of the fact that the principals were beginning to draw nearer to each other. And at length voices arise—Who is Mrs. Simpson, the other principal in the story?

Mayfair was stirred. The American Press filled their pages with the life-story of Mrs. Simpson, the principal picture in the map. Mrs. Simpson, the unnamed woman has had a romantic reference which has so long an obscure, common to a commoner. But now she has become brought to light by the American Press, the unnamed woman's name. The American Press pieced together in details the romantic or otherwise career of Mrs. Simpson and essayed on its pages and bundled out to England.

Mrs. Simpson having her virgin name Miss Bessie Wallis Warfield, the only child of Teakla Wallis, a relative of Governor Warfield of Mary-land, was born in 1896, Baltimore, Mary-land, America. As Miss Bessie Wallis lost her father on her third year, she lived with her poor widow mother when at the age of 12 uncle Mr. Solomon Davis Warfield, President of the Sea-board Airline Co., took her to rear up. She attended some of the best schools in the city and found her passage into Baltimore "Society" at the age of eighteen. In 1916 she met Lieutenant



Mrs. Simpson Dressed for the press

Earl Wingfield Spencer of Chicago in Florida and was married to the Lieutenant and lived in Florida for two years. In July, 1927, when the Lieutenant Spencer was away in California, Mrs. Spencer filed a bill complaint to show that her husband had deserted her and gave her no pension for support since 1922. An uncontested divorce was decreed in her favour on those grounds at Warrenton, Virginia.

On July 28, 1928, she remarried Mr. Ernest Aldrich Simpson in London. Mr. Simpson is the son of Mr. Ernest L. Simpson of New York, a leading ship-broker of the firm of Simpson Speer of New York and London.

Miss Bessie Wallis Warfield is born of Warfield family of England, having annals dating back to Norman England and earlier. Pagan de Warfield, a Norman gentleman, who joined the ranks of William the conqueror and fought valiantly at the battle of Hastings established the Warfield on English soil. Pagan de Warfield, as a reward for his valour and loyalty, received an English manor as "Knight's Fee" "Warfield's Walk" the estate was called in the Domesday Book. Pagan de Warfield is also credited with lands in Stratford.

Robert de Warfield of Warfield House is Knight of the order of the garter during the reign of Edward III and was of the Birkshire branch of the family. And the Warfield Parish is free gift to the family. Warfield manor in Warfield Walk is one of the "Walks," into which Windsor forest was divided. In the annals of Windsor are found many interesting references to the name of Warfield, indicating the prominence of the family and its association with the Royal Household.

Centuries later, Richard Warfield, founder of the American branch of the family left Birkshire, England, and reached

the shores of Chesapeake Bay in 1682. A few years after his arrival Richard Warfield became the proprietor of an estate to which he gave his own name. This was the history of the family to Mrs. Simpson, an unnamed U. S. girl and Commoner, born and destined to take the Royal hand of England by marriage and thereby to enthrone herself as full-blown queen of England.

Mr. and Mrs. Simpson again. The couple entertained very much in London and entered an Anglo-American Society-Group in which the Prince of Wales had many friends. Mrs. Simpson made a good hostess of her small parties and became famous. And it was absurd that the Prince of Wales was frequent visitor.

As the days passed it came to be understood that Mrs. Simpson had secured a warm corner in the heart of the Prince of Wales and the speculation grew in volume, and after the death of the King George V it became apparent that King Edward was nursing the same feeling towards Mrs. Simpson and had not the intention to cut off his former relation, and speculation putting on a curb of scandal began to run riot.

Now the crisis is reached. On May 27th, 1936, for the first time for story of Romance, names of Mr. and Mrs. Simpson as having dined with the King appeared in the Court Circular. Mayfair was bewildered and amazed. Westminster was astonished. Some section of the public who interested themselves in the dignity of the King and the throne and the morale of the constitution however comforted themselves by saying, "let this small indiscretion go by." The common folk, commonly unmindful of things that happen in high

circle, went their daily round, but Mayfair which has kept his eye fixed on the King's Romance could not show to grasp its implication.

Further it appeared from the Court Circular, dated 10th July, 1936, that the King was not going to sever his five-year-old friendship. As it appeared in circular that the King gave a dinner party at York House this evening at which the Duke and Duchess of York were present, and the small band of ladies and gentlemen to which Mrs. Ernest Simpson belonged, had the honour of being invited. That was virtually the King's answer to Mayfair and Westminster. And also it was to be noted that Mrs. Simpson attended the dinner unescorted by her husband which it goes straight against the public decorum, appropriate to a married lady. Mrs. Simpson's this piece of conduct betraying intention of small indiscretion amounted to an answer to her home press. This was answer indeed. The answer in movements was more eloquent than any answer in voice uttered hoarsely, and such an eloquent answer can only aggravate the situation.

Who was the principal Actor ?

The King or Mrs. Simpson or any other body or bodies ? When Mayfair had whispered America talked. And when the Americans get on such story it uses its loudest notes.

King Edward's way was not considered by those who count in England, safe to the British Royalty. They thought it to have possessed much matters of explosive or combustible nature and at the same time they entertained that with all such matters King's way can be kept out of danger if carefully managed. And what happened ? The wide-awake

people of England, in their deep anxiety, managed to the Royalty of England not Royal person or King of England.

King's mauler was long looked upon more or less explosive but was wanting in sufficient energy to explode out of itself. Came Wally then to supply energy necessary to cause explosion. England got aghast, jubilant was America, Europe was in enjoying mood. King and Wally meet and exploded a dynamite. Who was Walli? The answer was emphatic —no. She was an unnamed American commoner girl and a divorcee.

What is she? She is decidedly not a beautiful woman. She stands five feet five inches in her stockinged feet.

Slim and slender, she possesses a perfect figure. Her shoulders are broad, her hips narrow. Her hands, arms, legs and feet suggest a thorough-bred.

Her eyelashes are long, her eyes expressive and beautiful. Her ears and the back of her head are moulded exquisitely. Her jaw is long, a typical "Southern" jaw.

She uses very little make up, no rouge at all, just a bit of lipstick. That and her unerring taste in clothes make her stand out anywhere, even in a drawing room packed with much taller and more beautiful women.

Mrs. Simpson has got an unerring taste in clothes in as much as she can wear the same evening dress ten times in succession and look different each time. It's not what she wears, but how she wears it. So much for her appearance and dress. But they are not so important as her character and disposition. "Mrs. Simpson is the only human being" says one American paper "who is as gay as lark." It is this happy quality of sincere gaiety which is the real secret of both

her charm and success. But what was spoken of her or written about her in the months of 1936?

If the heroine of "The Greatest Love Story of the Century" ever read what was written about her in the mad month of December, 1936, she would be bound to recall those wise words. It might amuse her in the years to come to discover that among many other things dragged out of history, zoology, and the Britannica, she had been called" ;

(1) A *Cinderella*, 1937 model, who managed to swap the hardships of a bleak hou^s in Baltimore for the luxuries of a palatial residence in London.

(2) A modern Cleopatra who threatened to do to the British Empire what her Egyptian predecessor did to the *Pax Romana*.

(3) A Diane de Poitiers reincarnated, who got hold of the secret of eternal youth, and who looked eighteen and acted fourteen at the age of forty-one.

(4) An American edition of Mme. de Pompadour, who wove intrigues from sunrise to sunset, and who charmed a young and inexperienced sovereign into complete submission.

(5) A Dixie replica of Mme. de Barry, who believed that the end justifies any means, and who preferred to ignore the rumblings of an approaching revolution.

Twenty years' Siege

Look at the hero, who has made so daring a rash in life. He is born a prince and the heir-apparent to a throne and—"Brought up in the solemn atmosphere of a royal palace, who has been delivering four speeches a day ever since he reached his twentieth birthday, who has worn at one time or another fifty or sixty different uniforms, who has been

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obliged to spend his time with bores and stuffed shirts, who has had to watch his step constantly lest he be cajoled into a marriage with some long-nosed, waistless princess, who has seen so much of what he calls "bowing and scraping" that the very mention of the word *etiquette* sends him into fits and spasms."

If you put yourself in the place of a man whose human contacts were traditionally limited to courtiers, statesmen, politicians and schemers, who could not but suspect every one of trying to get something out of him and his friendship, who had to give up his favourite sport because the Empire "could not afford an accident in the Royal Family," who derives but little pleasure out of his travels, because wherever he goes he becomes a show.

If you put yourself in the place of a man who up to the age of thirtynine had never met any one who could give him the only thing he was always after—a bit of gaiety and warm friendship—

You will realise the nature of the relationship which existed between the hero and the heroine of the Greatest Love Story of the Century until the very moment when the combined forces of the British Old Guard and the International Kibitzers rushed to storm 16, Cumberland terrace.

Had he been after beauty, youth, blue-eyed sweetness or revelry, he could have had all of it years ago. Many an ambitious royal mother, many a multi-millionaire, many an European chancellery, has burned the midnight oil for over twenty years trying to think up ways and means of cornering the ever-elusive, the ever-desirable Prince of Wales.

Nothing was overlooked, no bet neglected, no scheme ignored during that twenty-year siege of York House.

And yet it fell to the lot of an American who had neither the money which Americans are excepted to have nor the resplendent beauty which some of them actually possess to become the only real friend, the world's most eligible bachelor has ever had.

A natural, an altogether logical question arises. Why should it have been Mrs. Simpson and not any other attractive, charming woman? Attractiveness and charm have never been at a premium in London.

The King's pro-American sympathies? Well, Mrs. Simpson was not exactly the only American woman residing in London in the late 1920's and the early 1930's.

New York and Philadelphia, Boston and Chicago, Washington and St. Louis, Denver and Sanfrancisco have never stopped shipping their fair daughters over to England.

Some of them married resounding titles. The others, while satisfied with their American husbands, are firmly established in London and Mayfair.

It would be difficult indeed to find a prominent American woman in London who has less money or "connections" than Mrs. Simpson had when she first settled in King Edward's land.

What we are driving at is this: discard at once all the fancy newspaper explanations of Mrs. Simpson's success.

Her parties were not spectacular, her beauty not dazzling, her circle of friends not impressive. But—and this is a very important "but"—it so happens that Mrs. Simpson was the only woman the King has ever met who not only was gay as a lark but who did not seem to be overawed by his rank.

She did not go in for "bowing and scrapping" as everybody else did. Neither did she try to exploit their friendship, as almost everybody else had tried to do.

She did not call up every woman she knew and say, "Oh yes. By the way—fancy what? I'm going out tonight with his Royal Highness." She did not junk her old friends or stop inviting them to her house just because they happened to be "Mr. and Mrs." instead of "Lord and Lady."

She remained herself—and that's where she showed her intelligence.

Had she acted differently, there would be no "case of Mrs. Simpson" today.

Unlike so many American-born-peccresses who try to out-British the British, she is still an American. Possible more than ever.

Her a's are no broader than they used to be, and her sense of humour is intact. She still believes that English cooking is atrocious—and thereon hinges a delightful story.

Unbelievable, as it may sound, it was she who made his Britannic Majesty food-conscious. Each time he dined at her house she served him a Southern dish. He noticed it at once. He wanted to know how it was made. She explained readily.

She pointed out that while in England every vegetable tastes alike, way back in Baltimore one was actually able to tell whether one was eating asparagus or cabbage.

The King laughed. No other woman has ever talked to him in such a fashion. No other woman ever dared to criticise English cooking to the presence of the King of England.

"The trouble with you is," she told him once when they

were in Paris, "that you invariably eat in restaurants where royalty is supposed to eat. I wager you that, after all these years, you have never tasted real French cooking".

The Prince—he was then still the Prince of Wales—demurred. He was under the impression that the hotel where he was stopping was serving excellent food. Wouldn't she like to dine there? She would not, "It's food for royalty—no taste."

They wound up that night in a small restaurant off the Rue du Faubourg St. Honore.

The hero of the greatest love-story of the century will be forty-three this coming June. He looks younger, much younger. At least he did look much younger until the battle began.

According to our American standards and ideas, a man of forty-three owes it to himself not only to look young but to maintain his fealty to youth. According to our American standards and ideas, I said—I wish I could underline that word 'American' three times.

For, all fine speeches on British American friendship to the contrary notwithstanding, there is as much in common between our ideas and those of the British as there is between Herr Hitler and Rabbi Stephen Wise.

A man of forty-three is not considered a young man in England, at least not in the England of yesterday, and not in the England of today.

He may be considered a young man in the England tomorrow, but until a very recent date, the "England of tomorrow" constituted but an infinitesimally small minority in and around London.

Queen Victoria and her ideas were still very much alive in Great Britain on the bleak and cold winter morning of 1936, when King Edward VIII walked behind his father's coffin.

"His Majesty should marry a princess and settle down," said those solid, stout-hearted statesmen whose idea of "settling down" precludes anything even remotely suggestive of American rhythms and American youthfulness.

Well, the truth is that the King flatly refused to settle down in that fashion. Admiring as much as he does the memory of his father who was the head of a family of six at the age of forty-three, he believes that new times call for new ideas, new faces and new rhythms.

That he had new ideas was known beforehand; but that he would surround himself with new faces, that he would retire almost every one of his father's aides, was not known, not even suspected.

When this did happen, when one after another of the great Georgian courtiers were asked to step aside and relinquish their posts to the younger men who believed in New Times and New Rhythms, there was a cry of agony and protest from the England of yesterday.

The Carlton Club was shocked. The Royal Yacht Squadron stood aghast. The reigning dowagers gasped. The friends and relatives of the retired courtiers went to work.

"Went to work" is right, because what we were witnessing in England, the open combat between Youth and Age had been preceded by several months of careful preparation.

What the Old Guard needed most of all was a shining target to shoot at some one who could be held responsible for

Edward's "daring ideas." Some one, who, because of his or her peculiar characteristics, could be made obnoxious to the Great Middle Class.

Mrs. Wallis Warfield Simpson fitted the bill admirably. Not only was she a complete newcomer, but she happened to be an American. What could be more natural and logical than to hold an American responsible for Edward's American ideas?

The English newspapers can stand on their heads and shout blue murder denying that Mrs. Simpson was attacked because of her American birth, but any one who has spent as much as six months in England knows that the British cannot overcome their dislike of Americans.

So the campaign started. In strict accordance with the ethics of all political campaigns, the real issue—Edward's modernism was never mentioned by the leaders of the Old Guard.

It wouldn't have done to tell the people that they should criticise their sovereign because he dared to dismiss a score of stuffed shirts.

It wouldn't have done to admit that a remark made by him on the occasion of the launching of a luxurious steamer

Strange, isn't it? We can afford money to build this beautiful toy, but we cannot afford money to eliminate slums!") had sent cold shudders down the spine of the Old Guard.

It wouldn't have done to accuse him of sympathy with the starving miners of Wales. But Mrs. Simpson! Oh, there was a sweet issue, almost too sweet for words...An American woman, a friend and confidante of the King! How shocking—how very, very revolting!

Had Mrs. Simpson been a British woman, the leaders of the Old Guard would have had no issue, for there is nothing unprecedented or unusual in the fact of King of England's friendship with a married or divorced woman.

The most amusing and the most hypocritical part of the anti-Simpson campaign was that its leaders—retired courtiers and their disgruntled relatives—knew very well about the existence of the King's American friend as far back as four years ago.

The self-same old gentleman and ladies who wring their hands and shake their heads now thought and said but twelve short months ago that it was "very admirable" that the heir to the throne was finally able to find a sincere friend, some one in whom he could confide, some one who by all tokens was exercising a "constructive influence" on him.

Not only did they think and say so, but oh, the great irony of human comedy! they sat down and wrote to Mrs. Simpson a formidable collection of letters which she still has in her possession.

Letters signed by Great Britain's most resounding names. Letters inviting Mrs. Simpson to grace their parties with her presence.

Letters praising her for having been able to explain to their sovereign that instead of spending most of his time with the so-called "Prince of Wales set", a galaxy of idlers ranging all the way from Wodehouse characters to cut-and-dust chisellers, who went from one end of the Continent to the other boasting of their pull with his Royal Highness, that instead of associating with the domestic and imported ne'er-do-wells, he should pay more attention to his dukes and earls.

A single example of Mrs. Simpson's admiration and respect for the old British institutions will suffice to prove the point.

The King, impatient and high strung, likes speed when travelling. He'd much rather board a 'plane than a train, and the very idea of riding in a barouche driven by four white horses from the railway station to Balmoral Castle—a custom religiously followed by his father, appals him.

When Mrs. Simpson visited him at Balmoral Castle last, he met her at the station in a big motor-car.

The good villagers did not disguise their resentment. "That's what happens," they said, "when a King of England tries to please an American woman".

This exact opposite was the truth. Mrs. Simpson registered her disapproval of the long black motor-car the moment she laid her eyes on it.

Born and reared in a part of the United States where they revere the past, she begged his Majesty not to break traditions. He wouldn't listen to her.

A barouche driven by four white horses is just as ridiculous in his estimation as the royal "We" of a King's speeches before the Parliament. He insists on speed, and he insists on "I" instead of "We." It so happens that he is more American in his likes and dislikes than Mrs. Simpson.

What will the future historians say about Mrs. Simpson? Will they accuse her of having hypnotised her royal friend, of having charmed him into complete surrender, or will they recognise that no woman of forty-one could or ever has charmed a man of forty-two into complete surrender?

I cannot overstress the importance of this point. Had Mrs. Simpson been a dazzling beauty in her twenties, I would have said: "Oh, well. You know what happens to a man of forty-two, particularly to a tired business-man of forty-two, when he meets a dazzling young beauty." But Mrs. Simpson is forty-one, and even her most enthusiastic friends would not describe her as a "beauty."

I would go further than that, and say that every one of Edward's former women friends was infinitely more attractive than Mrs. Simpson.

"You know," said Mrs. Simpson, not so long ago, "think his Royal Majesty should see a really beautiful woman for a change. He sees entirely too much of me. He deserves a treat."

No sooner said than done. The following week a dazzling beautiful woman was invited to dinner in Mrs. Simpson's house.

Seated on his Majesty's right, she decided to make the best of that chance. Her technique was superb, her strategy cunning, her attack devastating. She would no doubt have scored a smashing victory, had it not been for one completely unforeseen detail: his Majesty never noticed her.

She could have been a visiting New York alderman in so far as he was concerned. All his remarks were addressed to Mrs. Simpson. Aside from, "Yes," "No," "I don't know," "You think so?" and he had nothing to say to the dazzling beauty.

Not many a woman in Mrs. Simpson's place would have risked such a daring experiment; but then, not many women in the world possess Mrs. Simpson's intelligence and talent for friendship.

When she met her Royal friend first she spent the evening talking with him about gardening and knitting, of all things.

The self-same people who went around with Mrs. Simpson long before she thought she would ever meet the future King of England are still her friends.

None of them is spectacularly rich or unduly famous. They belong to that upper-middle stratum of Americans who don't go in much for "bowing and scraping," and who admire Edward not because he is a Windsor but because they think he's a regular fellow.

Knowing Mrs. Simpson as well as they do, they realise that instead of being a lurid heroine of the Greatest Love Story of the Century, she is merely a frank, outspoken woman who sees no reason why any one should not follow the dictates of his or her own heart.

They realise likewise that she is suffering from the defects of her virtues.

Not a schemer, she is tremendously handicapped when it comes to fighting England's most experienced schemers.

A strong believer in loyalty, she was and is obliged to keep an uninterrupted silence, although had she chosen to talk at the time of her departure from England she could have annihilated her enemies.

From the very beginning she made it clear to her friends that should her association with the King jeopardise his position she would be willing to "step out of the picture" and leave England.

Months and months before the King consented to let her go to the French Riviera she was weighing the advisability of her further stay in England.

The statement she issued to the Press on December 7, was slowly crystallising in her mind as far back as last summer when American newspapers began to publish the Edward Wallis photographs.

Even her bitterest critics are willing to admit that had it not been for the King and his determination to fight it out the British Parliament, the Government, and the good Archbishop of Canterbury could have continued their usual pursuits without giving a moment's thought to the lady residing at 16, Cumberland-terrace.

Romance of Prince of Wales with the American Wallis was being in the process when January 21, 1936, in London the cry went "The King is dead ; Long live the King."

Prince of Wales under the name of Edward VIII at the instant of the death of his father, George V, became his successor. A day later, with traditional pomp and ceremony, Edward VIII was proclaimed King. Bare-headed and tremulous Londoners heard with emotion the fanfare of trumpet, the thunder of saluting guns, and these the reading of the official proclamation. Bands played the national anthem and voices rose in choruses :

"Send him victorious, happy and glorious
Long to reign over us.
God save the King!"

At once King Edward VIII took over the duties of states. Everything went on apparently happy.

The King in his first radio broadcast in March paid an eloquent tribute to his father and then said :

"It now falls upon me to succeed him and carry on his work.

"I am better known to most of you as the Prince of Wales, as the man who, during the war and since, has had an opportunity of getting to know people in nearly every country of the world under all conditions and circumstances. And although I now speak to you as King, I am still that same man who has had that experience and whose constant effort it will be to continue to promote the well-being of my fellowmen.

"May the future bring peace and happiness to the British Empire and we be worthy of the heritage that is over."

So was the King, and his statement gave his subjects a glimpse of the nature of their new monarch.

He was King under the atmosphere not congenial to him. He was single and lived alone. He ascended the British throne unfriended, surrounded by a band of wearied old ministers. He had no love for, nor attentive to, his Premier and he found an enemy in Archbishop. So really he was unfriended and alone. Had he been King during war-time or any constitutional crises, those ministers would make friends with him, and otherwise would have happened.

King Edward VIII was, by virtue of his nature and under the dictate of his mind, revolted against old ideas, old notion and form of prestige, hide-bound traditional orthodoxy. For such aversion and leaning and puranits he was in many ways restricted. He objected to and sometime broke restriction for which he was remonstrated with. He was remonstrated with for his own leaning, the more he rebelled against the old ones and ran after new ones.

For the last twenty years the Prince of Wales was restricted constitutionally. His inner man wanted to be free

and simple and live life. But constitutional restrictions, imposed upon him, tried to make royalty aristocratically solitary, vaguely dignified personality and a dead life. This time when he was quite a youth and the most eligible bachelor, every royal house in Europe tried its best to get him netted within the clutches of the arms of its respective royal princess. But all along he kept aloof and withstood manfully all the constitutional restrictions and matrimonial bids of prey. Now a little close upon forty when a man is not considered young in Edgland he found an oasis in Mrs. Simpson in the arid of desert he was in. Church lost the ground under its feet. Ministers shuddered, Parliament began to shake their head, Mayfair became vociferous, foreign Press was resonant, America was clamoring, Europe was enjoying observant.

This time the King dismissed his old guards, sent them disgruntled and in their stead appointed new men of his age having new ideas, new sense of prestige and new pulsation of life.

King's week-end dinner at York House Balmoral Castle having Mrs. Simpson as guest, created dissatisfaction in St. James's Place and abhorrence in Church, in Ministry and in English Aristocracy. They went so far that in one of such dinners, the Archbishop declined King's invitation to dine with Mrs. Simpson. And King's holiday voyage down the Adriatic in Lady Yule's yacht 'Nahlin' having Mrs. Simpson in his company brought the silent situation to a breaking point.

Back in England from voyage the King attended some time his duties in London. Then he proceeded to Balmoral Castle in Scotland. A few days latter Court Circular appeared, in the list of King's guest at Balmoral Castle Mrs. Simpson's name was found.

The news service wired out that when Mrs. Simpson and another New York Lady, Mrs. Herman Roger, whose name and that of her husband Mr. Herman Roger were also found in the list of King's guests at Balmoral Castle, published in the Court Circular, arrived by train in Aberdeen, the King was at station to meet them, having driven 50 miles from Balmoral Castle in his own car.

When a few days after, Mrs. Simpson returned to London she went to her address in Cumberland Terrace. Ernest Simpson had moved also from the Bryanston Court apartment to the Guards club.

It was on October 14, later wire services, now familiar with the name of Wallis Simpson, flashed that name around the world. Wallis Simpson had filed a suit for divorce, in ancient Assize Court at Ipswich, England. On October 27, 1936, the case was gone through and Mrs. Simpson obtained decree Nisi.

The report that the divorce was granted spread by telegram and wireless and telephone. In the United States the news crowded out the National presidential election and war in Europe from the front page. Picture of Mrs. Simpson appeared and banner headlines. Yes, Mr. and Mrs. Simpson were divorced.

As the word spread and the news repeated there were newer report—sometimes whispers—sometimes discontinued, then reports continued, grew louder and lastly swelled. The reports said "The King is in love and they will be married. The King is going to make an American woman his queen."

The whole world was in anxious suspense. Anxious question was heard everywhere, "Will King Edward and Wallis

Simpson be married?" The world asks also, if, in case of such a marriage, Wallis Simpson, American born, will be queen of England,—and if marriage takes place, will it be solemnized? Who will perform the ceremony? Who will be present?

While Wallis Simpson, secure and serene at 16, Cumberland Terrace in Regent's Park, observes the condition of her decree nisi divorce, six months from October 27, 1936, if the King's Proctor finds no cause otherwise, the nisi decree will be more absolute and Wallis Simpson will be free to marry again.

In the case of her being married to King Edward Authorities agree that there are no laws to prevent the British ruler from marrying whomever he chooses, so long as the bride is not of Roman Catholic faith. By the Bill of Rights, passed in 1689, King of England who marries a Roman Catholic must surrender the throne to the next Protestant heir.

Here Wallis Simpson is not a Catholic. She is a Commoner, but this is no bar to marriage with royalty in England. Two of King Edward's brothers and his sister Princess Mary have married commoners.

There is the debated question whether or not a marriage between King Edward and Wallis Simpson, a divorcee, could be sanctioned by the church.

Usually the Church of England conducts Royal weddings and it is usually the Archbishop of Canterbury who performs the ceremony. But the Archbishop of Canterbury has stated his desire that, in the case of any person, previously married who has been separated by divorce from a husband or wife who is still alive, the marriage should not be solemnized in church.

More liberal churchmen believe, under certain circumstances, that such marriage may take place.

There are no laws to make it impossible for King Edward and Wallis Simpson to be wedded. But barriers are there that are stronger than laws—barries of traditions ; barriers of Empire ; the slender threads binding the crown, that hold together far-flung countries and varied races and nations ; political ambitions ; political functions.

Do these barriers appear to be insurmountable ? Has the old order changed, so that no longer must Kings and Princes, by very virtue of their royal prerogative, lose the rights of common men ? These are the questions which await answers.

Kings have loved before. Kings and queens have loved those from whom they were separated by creed and statute and station. Kings have lost thrones for a woman's smile and for love of country. They have renounced a lifetime happiness.

There is romance. Romance knows no statutes, no pacts, no Parliament, no press.

Still one would ask 'Will King Edward marry Wallis Simpson' ? Will she, an American woman, be queen of England ? For an answer people must look toward Buckingham Palace. Then the world will know if Wallis Simpson is to be consort to the mightiest ruler on the earth and if she is to wear a crown.

If there is no marriage between King Edward and Wallis Simpson, will Edward the VIII, King of Great Britain and Emperor of India, renounce his throne for love ?

It is love—deep and devout and sincere—between King Edward and Wallis Simpson. And of that the world is sure. It is love humane, humanising and ennobling. A devotion that is beautiful and overwhelming, of precious men it is rare. It touches human lives, transform them by curious metamorphosis and makes of those lives a sort of poetry.

Wallis Simpson is queen—the queen of romance, of glamor and the unfulfilled longings of a love-starved world. She is the queenly heroine of a love story that touching these two—Edward VIII, monarch of the British Empire and Wallis Simpson of America—touches millions—leaving a live poetry that love the humaniser ennobles the present and the future.

Merged the King Edward VIII out of the business, the art and merit of which was through out far from being clear and understandable to the people, on the 11th day of December, one thousand nine hundred and thirtyseventh year of His Grace. The affair may be very trifling, but the lesson is solid, in as much as that joy and laughter dewed this side—the solemn and restricted existence of Royalty. The outcome of this pathetic case was not so remarkable as this was wholly to be expected ; but the fact that in an age which was supposed to be an age of enlightenment, a King was called to task by his ministers, and a Defender of faith was decried by his men who were appointed to ministry, not for his dissolute and reprehensible conduct, but merely because he wanted to marry a woman he loved.

In making perparation for bringing such a matter to an end no stone was left unturned, press gossips, talk, party meetings, publications—all vied with one another, ran riot in combination to create the atmosphere which could not but produce such end.

King's every piece of his daily reward was commented upon. Mrs. Simpson's palatial home at 16, Cumberland Terrace, her Jewellery, dress, belongings, servants were compared and commented upon. The King's every item of attention to Mrs. Simpson was taken to be as much as that of

an arduous youth of riches to his mistress. The whole atmosphere of England was embodied with a kind of fobia. Nothing on the earth could be compared with this romance of the King Edward VIII. Russia could take the world within the hollow of her Communist palm, Italy could beat the breast of the earth with her fascist shoe, she could reduce Abyssinia to shambles, Hitler could wrench back less their colonies, Japan could scatter China, General Franco could deluge Spain with her own blood, De Velera could take anchor out of Ireland, Japan, Germany, Italy could flout the League of Nations but these were nothing in compared with the possibility of Mrs. Simpson's becoming the queen of England.

While British Press maintained an austere silence, America awoke daily to a fresh sensation. One headline after another screamed till "King might quit throne to wed Walli. Simpson Divorce excites London." Thus the American Press put the King of England and Mrs. Simpson on the spot—and there they kept them.

During this time, the Cabinet ministers, members of Parliament and other English notabilities, as they confessed to the fact later on, were being deluged with cuttings from the American Press. Still however British Press continued to be stolidly silent. Mayfair began to talk about and then the centre of interest was transferred to Ipswich where Mrs. Simpson's divorce proceedings against her husband were being heard on Sept. 27.

Just before the divorce the Journal of Mr. William Randolph Hearst blazoned across the continent from the Atlantic to Pacific that "within a few days Mrs. Ernest Simpson of

Baltimore, U. S. A. will obtain her decree in England and some eight months thereafter she will be married to Edward VIII, King of England."

Twenty-seven minutes' proceedings of divorce suit spread the columns of the American Press while British newspapers confined the report to a few lines lurking in obscure columns. Some did not mention it at all. Early in November American clippings were pouring in to make up in Mayfair for what the British editors had missed. The story spread through Fleet Street and Westminister. Members of Parliament, Public officials, journalists besieged the bookstalls for foreign journals, but they in number were not adequate to meet the demand. Buyers found that even if they were fortunate to get copies they did not contain the precious news-story for which they had been bought. The journals were sold to the public with the offending passages deleted or with the wanted pages missing. This continued for weeks and buyers cried out against the unofficial censorship. One complaint soon pushed its way to the Parliamentary Lobbies.

By mid-November considerable section in London's political and religious circles were athirst for news. The ban on foreign papers and the prolonged silence of the British Press was discussed in private party meetings. On November 17, the matter was brought to a head in the House of Commons when Mr. Adamson asked the President of the Board of Trade "Whether there is any special scrutiny of book and printed literature imported from other countries, and whether he can state the quantities and value, respectively, of scientific, historical, and artistic books, in addition to novels, which were imported from the United States of America during the last full year available."

Mr. Runciman : "It is not clear what exactly the Hon. member has in mind. If he will give particulars either to me or my right honourable friend, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, inquiries will be made, and he will be informed of the result. As regards the second part of the question, I regret that the information asked for is not available, as books of the kinds mentioned are not separately distinguished in the official records."

Mr. Adamson : "Is the right Hon. gentleman aware that a considerable quantity of such literature is coming into this country, and that it is mentioned in the statistical returns of his own Department, and can he give any information as to the types of literature that does come in ?"

Mr. Runciman : "I am afraid that I cannot go further than the answer which I have already given to the House."

Miss Wilkinson : "Can the right honourable gentleman say why, in the case of two American magazines of high repute, imported into this country during the last few weeks, at least two, and sometimes three, pages have been torn out, and what is this thing—the British public are not allowed to see ?"

Mr. Runciman : "My department has nothing to do with that."

Mr. Rathbone : "May I ask my right honourable friend whether the magazines referred to can seriously be considered as being of high repute ?"

This brief interrogation though it failed to allay the ban exercised by the wholesaler clearly showed the manner which the House was lining upon the unofficial censorship. And it is needless to say that such scrutiny of the incoming journals was continued.

The King and Premier

It was on October 20, seven days before the divorce action, Mr. Baldwin sought and secured his first audience of the King concerning the difficult situation which might arise from His Majesty's association with Mrs. Simpson. Mr. Baldwin has told of this highly important meeting. It was then plain that the Cabinet was growing uneasy over the spread of criticism in America.

For some days the Premier had been perturbed by the news of Mrs. Simpson obtaining decree nisi. Now he heard at Buckingham Palace of the King's intention.

Mr. Baldwin as he said subsequently in Parliament, did not press the King for any kind of an answer to suggestion nor did he discuss the matter again until November 16, when the King sent for Mr. Baldwin on the eve of his departure for South Wales. Mr. Baldwin told His Majesty that he did not think that a particular marriage was one that would receive the approbation of the country, for the marriage which the King had in mind involved the question of the lady becoming Queen of England.

Now indeed a fateful moment in the history of the country presented itself. The King in answer to his Prime-Minister's advice said, "I am going to marry Mrs. Simpson and I am prepared to go" and with this pretentious sentence Mr. Baldwin went back to Downing Street.

Events by this time began to move swiftly. The King was back again in London from his South Wales tour in

November 20, and on Wednesday, November, 25, "The King sent for his Prime Minister and asked him if he has considered the alternative of Mrs. Simpson becoming his wife but not his consort. Mr. Baldwin answered that he had not considered it formally, but if the King wished it he would submit the proposal to the Cabinet, and communicate with Prime Ministers of the Dominion Governments. The King said that he did so wish.

Mr. Baldwin put King's wish before his colleagues at a hurriedly convened Cabinet meeting on Friday, November 27, but nothing of it was heard then.

Next on Tuesday, December 1, Dr. Alfred Walter Frank Blunt, the Bishop of Bradford addressing his Diocesan Conference at Bradford said, "The benefit of the King's Coronation depends, under God, upon two elements—first on the faith, prayer and selfdedication on the King himself—and on that it would be improper for me to say anything except commend him, and ask you to commend him, to God's grace, which he will so abundantly need, as we all need it—for the King is a man like ourselves if he is to do his duty faithfully. We hope that he is aware of his need. Some of us wish that he gave more positive signs of his awareness.

General feeling about the Bishop's speech was that it had been levelled against the King, and the public welcomed the direct raising of the personal aspect of the situation in which the King now found himself.

Following it the chorus from the provinces staggered both the Parliament and the Fleet Street. The London Journal appreciated the fact that the Cabinet meeting of Friday, November 27, lasting from 11 A. M. to 1-50 P. M. was of far-reaching importance and that Mr. Baldwin saw the King that same evening. And whisper grew.

Manchester Guardian, in its issue of the 2nd December, openly wrote on a constitutional issue. The paper saidthere is reason to think that the hastily summoned Cabinet meeting of Friday was concerned not with the troubled state of Europe, but with a domestic problem that involves an important constitutional issue, since it bears on the relation of the King to his Ministers and his readiness to be guided, in all matters which may affect the welfare of the British Commonwealth by the advice which the Prime Minister sees fit to offer."

At long last the problems that was troubling and involved the public had gained light. Conjecture and rumour were now being confirmed by fact. Sir John Simon, then acting Lord Chancellor, was holding frequent discussion with the Premier. Long meeting on Thursday evening of the senior members of the Government listened to the supposition that important developments were to be forthcoming.

Wednesday, the 2nd December, saw a noticeable change in London. Stock Exchange reacted to the situation. Buying prices fell one to two points below the previous day's quotations. Industrial and miscellaneous markets were also comparably affected. The absence of any great offering of sterling from abroad indicated that the decline was of domestic origin. The story was in full flood by Thursday, December 3. This was the day on which the crisis began. The matter which so long excited profound interest in select circles, now became a matter of common concern.

As the excitement was developing, the newspapers began to take sides. Majority of the Press was still criticising Bishop Blunt for what it alleged was interference in the King's Private affairs.

The News Chronical suggested that the King should go through the proposed marriage as the Duke of Cornwall. The Daily Telegraph hoped that the King would renounce Mrs. Simpson. Daily Herald assuming Cabinet's advice against the marriage fully supported the Government. This was also the leaning of other national journals. There was remarkable unanimity in the opinion though implicit, that the proposed marriage should not take place.

Now Col. Josiah Wedgwood's following motion was found on the order paper on Thursday morning :

"In the opinion of this House, the oath of allegiance which they have already taken to King Edward VIII is unaffected by any form of Coronation ceremony, or by the presence there at, or absence, therefrom, of any dignitary or personage whatsoever ; nor will they substitute and other for the King of England."

This motion of the Hon'ble Gallant Col. was decided and was of very much significance. As much as it raised the constitutional aspect of the King and his relation to Parliament regarding letters both of allegiance to the King Edward and a timely warning to the House against the unasked interference of the Archbishop of Canterbury in King's private affairs, since it brought to the surface the rumours so long simmering in the lobbies from the middle of October when American Press published a story to the effect that the Archbishop of Canterbury had declined to dine with King in company with Mrs. Simpson and had intimated his intention to refuse to participate in the Coronation ceremony unless the King severed his association with Mrs. Simpson.

From now Mr. Baldwin began his preparation to get a smooth passage for King's exit. This Thursday afternoon he came to the House of Commons to answer a pre-arranged question of Mr. Attlee, the leader of the Labour Opposition, in the midst of a loud roar of cheering.

Mr. Attlee : "May I ask the Prime Minister the following question, of which I have given him private notice—namely, whether any constitutional difficulties have arisen, and whether he has a statement to make ?"

Mr. Baldwin : "I have no statement to make to day, but while there does not at present exist any constitutional difficulty, the situation is of such a nature as to make it inexpedient that I should be questioned about it at this

Mr. Attlee : "May I ask the righthon. gentleman whether in view of the anxiety that these reports are causing in the minds of many people, he can assure the House that he will make a statement at the earliest possible time that a statement can be made ?"

Mr. Baldwin : "I can assure the right hon. gentlemen that all that he says I have very much in mind."

Mr. Churchill : "Will my right hon. friend give us an assurance that no irrevocable step will be taken before a formal statement is made to Parliament ?"

Mr. Baldwin : "I have nothing to add to the statement I have made at this present moment, I will consider and examine the question that my right hon. friend has asked."

Members of the Parliament and as well as the country obviously was in suspense. The decision of the King was now the vital factor. Firstly the 'hint of abdication

slowly came over the House of Parliament. It was soon noticed that the constitution and the monarchy could again be made a living issue. The hint found its way into press and soon overflowed the country. Men and women grew anxious as to what decision would be arrived at by the King Emperor without dissociation the lady he was in love with or a union with Mrs. Simpson and abdication of his throne.

That evening in the week Premier paid his third visit to the Palace. After Mr. Baldwin had withdrawn at 10-40 P.M. the King went to Marlborough House to see Queen Mary and the Duke and Duchess of York, along with his other brothers, Dukes of Gloucester and Kent. After leaving his mother he returned to the Palace and then left for Fort Belvedere where he held a long consultation with the Keeper of the Privy Seal, Purse Major Ulick Alexander, Col. Hon. Piers Legh his equerry, and Sir Good-Frey Thomas, his Assistant Private Secretary. He also took farewell of Mrs. Simpson who was to leave for France next day.

On the side of the Government, the members and the Dominions High Commissioners were holding consultation that evening and the opinions of the Dominion Premiers were also reaching London.

Mr. Mackenzie King, Canadian Prime Minister, stated : "I do not intend to be drawn into any discussion on this all-important subject by replying to what are unwarrantable rumours." But it was obvious that Canada might easily be offended, for it contains a large proportion of people to whom divorce is abhorrent.

The Australian Federal Cabinet viewed the situation with perturbation, but Mr. Lyons refused to make any statement.

Nervousness had manifested itself on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, and the *Cape Argus* hoped that "uneasiness and anxiety would still be happily resolved."

And the *Melbourne Argus* gave out the feelings of British subjects beyond the Seas.

"The King" it said, "is a man among men, a soldier and a comrade. It is impossible, however, to dissociate personal properties from kingly responsibilities. The Throne is sanctified by the tradition that is in Britain's fibre. Its march must be continuous on a high level of conduct ever illumined with the burnished light of sacrifice." In London excitement rose as the day moved on to the hour when Mr. Baldwin was expected to make his statement.

At 3-45 P. M. Mr. Attlee asked Mr. Baldwin if he had any statement to make. And Mr. Baldwin replied as follows the crowded and expectant atmosphere.

'In view of widely circulated suggestions as to certain possibilities in the event of the King's marriage, I think it advisable to make a statement.

"Suggestions have appeared in certain organs of the Press yesterday, and again to-day, that, if the King decided to marry, his wife need not become Queen. These ideas are without foundation. There is no such thing as what is called morganatic marriage known to our law.

"The Royal Marriages Act of 1772 has no application to the Sovereign himself, its only effect is that the marriage of any other member of the Royal Family is null and void unless the Sovereign's consent, declared under the Great Seal, is first

obtained. This Act, therefore, has nothing to do with the present case. The King himself requires no consent from any other authority to make his marriage legal.

"But, as I have said, the lady whom he marries, by the fact of her marriage to the King, necessarily becomes Queen. She herself therefore enjoys all the status, rights, and privileges which both by positive law and by custom attached to that position, and with which we are familiar in the case of her late Majesty Queen Alexandra and her Majesty Queen Mary, and her children would be in the Direct succession to the Throne.

"The only way to which this result could be avoided would be by legislation dealing with a particular case. His Majesty's Government are not prepared to introduce such legislation.

"Moreover, the matters to be dealt with are of common concern to the Commonwealth as a whole, and such a change could not be effected without the assent of all the Dominions. I am satisfied from inquiries I have made, that this assent would not be forthcoming.

"I have felt it right to make this statement before the House adjourns to-day, in order to remove a widespread misunderstanding. At this moment I have no other statement to make.

After this statement which was the decision of the Cabinet which dismissed the question of morganatic marriage for ever. Mr. Baldwin had another audience of the King at Fort Belvedere lasting for an hour, of which he made a report to his Cabinet the next morning, Saturday.

This decided the one issue—the marriage. And now remains the other—the abdication.

On December 4, Friday evening, the Arch Bishop of Canterbury made a pray to God to over-rule King's Decision for the lasting good of the Realm and Empire in the shape of statement issuing :-

"At this moment of deep anxiety and bewilderment in the public mind I venture to express two earnest hopes.

"The first is that, during this critical week-end, and especially on Sunday, those who have a duty to speak to the people from the pulpit or otherwise will refrain from speaking directly on the matters which have arisen affecting the King himself and his subjects.

"Words spoken with imperfect knowledge of an extremely difficult situation can give no helpful guidance, and may only mislead or confuse public thought and feeling. Silence is fitting until the ultimate decisions are made known.

"Secondly, I hope, and indeed I take it for granted, that on Sunday prayers will be offered in all our churches, as surely they must be continually offered in the hearts of all Christian people, that God may in these momentous hours over-rull the decisions of the King and of his Government for the lasting good of the Realm and Empire."

There in the Fleet Street the papers of Lord Beaverbrook, even those of Lord Rothermer's group, were divided in their opinion which, so long unanimous to support the Cabinet, Daily Express, Daily Mail, Evening Standard, Evening News began to critisize Mr. Baldwin and strongly resented any solution that might cost the country her King Edward.

On the other hand it was known clearly that the Baldwin Government had the full backing of all the Dominion Governments and it came to be sure that there was no possibility of compromise.

Saturday Dec. 5, Mr. Churchill held a meeting outside the Parliament and his following momentous statement appeared in the Press.

"I plead for time and patience. The nation must realize the character of the constitutional issue. There is no question of any conflict between the King and Parliament. Parliament has not been consulted in any way, nor allowed to express any opinion.

"The question is whether the King is to abdicate upon the advice of the Ministry of the day. No such advice has ever before been tendered to a Sovereign in Parliamentary times.

"This is not a case where differences have arisen between the Sovereign and his Ministers on any particular measure. These could certainly be resolved by normal processes of Parliament of dissolution.

"In this case we are in presence of a wish expressed by the Sovereign to perform an act which in no circumstances can be accomplished for nearly five months, and may conceivably, for various reasons, never be accomplished at all.

"That, on such a hypothetical and supposition basis, the supreme sacrifice of abdication and potential exile of the Sovereign should be demanded, finds no support whatever in British constitution. No Ministry has the authority to advise the abdication of the Sovereign. Only the most serious Parliamentary processes could even raise the issue in a decisive form.

"The Cabinet has no right to prejudge such a question without having previously ascertained at the very least the will of Parliament. This could, perhaps, be obtained by

messages from the Sovereign to Parliament, and by addresses of both Houses after due consideration of these messages.

"For the Sovereign to abdicate incontinently in the present circumstances would inflict an injury upon the constitutional position of the monarchy which is measureless and cannot fail to be grievous to the institution itself, irrespective of the existing occupant of the Throne.

"Parliament would also fail entirely in its duty if it allowed such an event to occur as the signing of an abdication in response to the advice of Ministers without taking all precautions to make sure that these same processes may not be repeated with equal uncanny facility at no distant date in unforeseen circumstances. Clearly time is needed for searching constitutional debate.

"The next question is—What has the King done? If it be true, as is alleged, that the King has proposed to his Ministers legislation which they are not prepared to introduce the answer of Ministers should be not to call for abdication, but to refuse to act upon the King's request, which thereupon becomes inoperative.

"If the King refuses to take the advice of his Ministers they are, of course, free to resign. They have no right whatever to put pressure upon him to accept their advice by soliciting beforehand assurances from the Leader of the Opposition that he will not form an alternative Administration in the event of their resignation, and thus confronting the King with an ultimatum. Again, there is cause for time and patience.

"Why cannot time be granted? The fact that it is beyond the King's power to accomplish the purpose which Ministers

oppose until the end of April, surely strips the matter of constitutional urgency.

"There may be some inconvenience, but that inconvenience stands on a different plan altogether from the grave constitutional issues I have set forth.

"National and Imperial considerations alike require that before such a dread step as a demand for abdication is taken, not only should the constitutional position be newly defined by Parliament, but that every method should be exhausted which gives the hope of a happier solution.

"Lastly, but surely not least, there is the human and personal aspect.

"The King has been for many weeks under the greatest strain, moral and mental, that can fall upon a man. Not only has he been inevitably subjected to the extreme stress of his public duty, but also to the agony of his own personal feelings.

"Surely, if he asks for time to consider the advice of his Ministers, now that at length matters have been brought to this dire culmination, he should not be denied.

"Howsoever this matter may turn, it is pregnant with calamity and inseparable from inconvenience. But all the evil aspects will be aggravated beyond measure if the utmost chivalry and compassion is not shown, both by Ministers and by the British nation, towards a gifted and beloved King, torn between private and public obligations of love and duty.

"The Churches stand for charity. They believe in the efficacy of prayer. Surely their influence must not oppose a period of reflection. I plead, I pray, that time and tolerance will not be denied.

"The King has no means of personal access to his Parliament or his people. Between him and them stand in their office the Ministers of the Crown. If they thought it their duty to engage all their power and influence against him, still he must remain silent.

"All the more must they be careful not to be the judge in their own case, and to show a loyal and Christian patience even at some political embarrassment to themselves.

"If an abdication were to be hastily extorted the outrage so committed would cast its shadow forward across many chapters of the history of the British Empire."

Baldwin Busy

Saturday, Dec. 5, was a crowded day for Mr. Baldwin. First he held his Cabinet meeting for forty-five minutes, then he had three consultations with Sir John Simon lasting nearly for seven hours. That evening he had an audience of the King for an hour and a quarter. This was the fifth audience in the week, he came back to Downing Street and arranged for a sitting of the Cabinet meeting on Sunday evening.

Sunday evening papers informed the public that the senior ministers met in a specially summoned meeting that morning. Mr. Baldwin left the meeting to consult Queen Mary and after half an hour's consultation he came to his colleagues. It was observable that Sir Donald Somerwell, the Attorney General, though not a member of Cabinet, attended the meeting apparently to offer to the Cabinet, his legal advice, as it was significant that he dined with Mr. Baldwin, the previous evening.

Before this meeting began Mr. W. J. Monckton K. G., Attorney-General to the Duchy Cornwall, had been in consultation with the Premier. He had been constantly travelling between Downing Street and Fort Belvedere for the last few days and had had long audience of the King and interviews with Mr. Baldwin.

That afternoon the Arch Bishop of Canterbury visited 10, Downing Street which in a demonstration decided "we want no King and his wife." The Cabinet met at 5-30 P.M. and sat until after 7 P.M. Half an hour before it ended Mr.

Monckton re-appeared at 10, Downing Street from Fort Belvedere in one of the King's cars.

The King had stayed at Fort Belvedere over week-end. All afternoon motorists, pulling up outside the gate of the Fort, cried "God save the king."

Some papers, notably 'Daily Mirror' now vaguely suggested a "King party" in the Parliament. It was suggested that many impressions had gathered about the relations between His Majesty and the Prime Minister, chief of them was that Mr. Baldwin had been tendering advice which amounted almost to an ultimatum involving either the abdication or the resignation of the Government. Such development was no doubt implicit in the situation, but inspite of Mr. Churchill's criticism that the Cabinet behaved unreasonably, an important section of the Press who were all along backing the Premier insisted that the advice given to the King was only that which he had sought for, they did not entertain the idea that His Majesty was being hastened to a decision.

House of Commons met in the afternoon. And a crowded chamber into which the Prime Minister had entered amid cheers—Colonel Josiah Wedgwood asked if he would be given an early opportunity to discuss the motion in his name.

Mr. Baldwin said. "No, sir."

"Arising out of that answer," cried Colonel Wedgwood, "May I ask the right honourable gentleman whether he can at least give us an assurance that the fatal step of abdication or acceptance of abdication"—

In the Parliament was heard for the first time the dreaded word "abdication."

Mr. Attlee rose and put this question :

"May I ask the Prime Minister whethr he has anything to add to the statement which he made on Friday?"

Mr. Baldwin: "Yes, sir. I am glad to have the occasion of making a further statement on the position".

"In considering the whole matter it has always been, and remains the earnest desire of the Government to afford to His Majesty the fullest opportunity of weighing a decision which involves so directly his own future happiness and the interests of all his subjects.

"At the same time they cannot but be aware that any considerable prolongation of the present state of suspense and uncertainty would involve risk of the gravest injury to national and imperial interests, and indeed no one is more insistent upon this aspect of the situation than His Majesty.

"In view of certain statements which have been made about the relations between the Government and the King, I should add that, with the exception of the question of morganatic marriage, no advice has been tendered by the Government to His Majesty, with whom all my conversations have been strictly personal and informal.

"The matters were not raised first by the Governments, but by His Majesty himself, in conversation with me some weeks ago, when he first informed me of his intention to marry Mrs. Simpson whenever she should be free.

The subject has therefore been for some time in the King's mind, and as soon as His Majesty has arrived at a conclusion as to the course he desires to take, he will no doubt communicate it to his Governments in this country and the Dominions.

"It will then be for those Governments to decide what advice, if any, they would feel it their duty to tender to him in the light of his conclusion.

"I cannot conclude this statement without expressing—what the whole House feels—our deep and respectful sympathy with His Majesty at this time."

Mr. Baldwin resumed his seat amid a storm of cheers and Mr. Attlee rose and said :

"Everyone will agree with the sympathy expressed by the Prime Minister in the last words of his statement. I am assuming from his statement that his Majesty has not yet come to a decision on the advice tendered to him on a morganatic marriage, and if this is so it is difficult to press the Prime Minister for a further explanation at the present time.

"But I would like to ask him to bear in mind, as I am sure he does, that the House and the country is deeply anxious to receive the fullest information as soon as possible, as without that it is not possible to have any proper discussion on these issues"

The Premier replied :

"I am obliged to the right hon. gentleman for the point he has put, and I am grateful to him. I agree with every word of what he says. I shall be only too glad at a suitable moment to give the House any information I am able to, and while I am always willing to answer supplementary questions, I think the whole House will agree with me that at this moment, when the situation is so grave and anxious and while the King is considering these matters and has not yet made up his mind, I should feel great difficulty in offering information and answering supplementary questions, especially when considering the answers I shall have to give, will have to be improvised."

At the first opportunity Mr. Churchill rose to put his supplementary question in which he requested an assurance

that no irrevocable steps would be taken. He was met with a loud roar of "Order" "Sit down" and "Shut up."

He was patently taken aback and remained standing but further discussion was impossible and he resumed his seat, after a mild rebuke from the Speaker.

After Mr. George Lambert has assured Mr. Baldwin that "there is in this House deep personal sympathy with him", Mr. Baldwin rose, and looking directly at Mr. Churchill, said: "I do not know yet, and cannot know yet, what the King may decide or how he may decide to act. It is quite impossible for me to enter into hypothetical question."

When Mr. Baldwin sat down, Mr. Gallagher rose in his place and put a supplementary question which caused a great deal of comment later. He said: "I would like to ask the Prime Minister if it is not the case that this crisis expresses a deeper crisis in the economic system?"

And Mr. Baldwin carried all but a small fraction of the House with him.

A similar statement was communicated to a well-filled House of Lords by Halifax on the same after-noon.

It was clear from the above statement which Mr. Baldwin made on the floor of the House of Commons that Mr. Baldwin is a past master in handling the situation. His masterly move veered round all the opposition to his side. Even when Mr. Churchill rose in his position to put supplementary question requesting for an assurance that no irrevocable steps would be taken, he was only ordered, with loud roar, to shut up. Still he was steering though discussion became impossible. He was made to resume his seat by the Speaker with a rebuke. The Monday affairs were important and that is first point which Mr. Baldwin scored without any credit in respect of throwing

light on the King's intention. Nevertheless Mr. Baldwin was able to convince the country, the Cabinet was guilty of nothing precipitate and that His Majesty was being given full opportunity to come to a considered decision. And he also removed the fears of many who had before protested that the personal affairs of the King might be dragged into political arena. And the King appeared to be left before the eyes of his people to be in sole charge of his destiny. Even it went so far and dispelled the idea, that was on foot, that Mr. Attlee, leader of the opposition, had been approached and had given an undertaking not to form a Government in the event of Mr. Baldwin resigning. The general feeling of relief came down upon the opposition benches that Mr. Baldwin's handling of the situation had been masterly, and so it would continue. Mr. Churchill had ceased to rise again in opposition and the talk of King's party came to an end. Opposition was pacified and mass made to support the Government. This added to the laurel of Baldwin. Smooth and calm ; only the issue of abdication has got to be pushed through.

Yet, then the popular mind questioned as to whether the King might decline to make his choice between the marriage and the Crown or might insist, as there was no precedent against him that he was constitutionally entitled to select his own wife and retain his Crown but that mattered little.

There was also a strong suggestion that an acrimonious feeling was greatly prevailing between the King and the Church, the King and his Ministers and officials or all sorts of questions, public and private. But this was given away saying that the suggestion came into being due to Government's tardiness in revealing the facts and the long-continued silence of the Press.

The King awaits

There at Fort Belvedere the King was awaiting the issue, Mr. Monckton K. G. who left fort Belvedere in a royal car for Buckingham Palace and with Sir Edward Peacock, Receiver-general of the Duchy of Lancaster, conferred with the officials of the King's household. Later he was in consultation with Mr. Baldwin for over two hours, Mr. Baldwin came back to No. 10 Downing Street at 9 O'clock from the House of Commons to receive to visitors who came in a Palace car. It was assumed one of them was the King's Secretary. That night also Duke of York dined with the King at Fort Belvedere.

There then came from Cannes the report that Lord Bronsow read the following statement by Mrs. Simpson, to a body of journalists.

"Mrs. Simpson" the statement announced, "throughout the last few weeks has invariably wished to avoid any action or any proposal which would hurt or damage His Majesty or the Throne.

"To-day her attitude is unchanged, and she is willing, if such action would solve the problem, to withdraw forthwith from a situation that has been rendered unhappy and untenable."

Despite these redeeming features that were releasing on all sides, Tuesday, December 8, was a day of great suspense. Mr. Baldwin, Sir John Simon spent two hours together and Sir Samuel Hoare was present at most of this discussion. Mr. Baldwin lunched with Lord Halifax who was to do for the

Government in the Upper House, and did not appear in the Lower House that day.

Mr. Attlee in that afternoon put his question : "Has the Prime Minister anything to add to the statement of yesterday ?" Sir John Simon, instead of the Prime Minister who was absent from the House, replied that he had nothing further to say.

Now the crisis was the main topic in the Parliamentary lobbies. Officials freely predicted that the King would abdicate. On Tuesday the Parliamentary labour party met to consider the situation. Though no vote was taken the great majority of the party approved the action of the Government. The last opposition not only concern themselves but naturally was in support of the Government.

All eyes were now on Mr. Baldwin. He, in the evening, went to Fort Belvedere at 5-15 P. M. with Mr. Monkton, K. G. for his sixth audience of the King, and had been with the King till 10 P. M. He there dined with the King, the Duke of York and the Duke of Kent who had been with the King from mid-day.

While Mr. Baldwin was in audience of the King, Sir John Simon here at Dowding Street had been impatiently waitting his chief's return. Mr. Baldwin came home at 11 O'clock and kept Sir John Simon with him about an hour.

Later on the King's Private Secretary, major Alexander Hording drove to Lambeth Palace to meet the Primate Dr. Cosmo Long.

In the meantime the Dominion Premier while anxiously awaiting the decision of the British Parliament, announced that if the British Parliament resign, the Government of the Dominions would follow suit.

The intense suspense in which the whole Empire was thrown could not be any longer prolonged. A week in suspense for the millions was to be broken, but the inevitable delay made, the Press speak of the abdication.

The rapid progress of the happenings took place.

9 a. m.—Sir Godfrey Thomas and Mr. Monckton left Fort Belvedere.

10 a. m.—Sir John Simon arrived at Downing Street for a conversation with the Premier prior to the Cabinet Meeting. Mr. Monkton was present.

11 a. m.—The Cabinet met and was told of the King's decision.

11-12 a. m.—Mr. Monckton and Sir Edward Peacock, Receiver-General to the Duchy of Cornwall, left Downing Street and went to the Buckingham Palace where they had a short consultation with the members of the King's staff.

12 noon—Mr. Monckton and Sir Edward Peacock returned to 10 Downing Street.

1-15 p. m.—The Cabinet meeting ended.

1. 52 p. m.—Sir Edward Peacock and Mr. Monckton left Downing Street together.

2. 20 p. m.—Sir John Simon and Mr. Malcolm, MacDonald left Downing Street and walked across to the Dominion's Office. Sir John Simon left Mr. MacDonald there.

Mr. Baldwin reads out the fateful document. The Abdication

The world which had retired to bed on Wednesday night in anxious suspense got up Monday morning to hear of the abdication of King Edward VII. An unparalleled thing happened in an unparallel way. A bloodless revolution came in and made for places not coming through the red current. Long talk and long consultation, entered by small constitutional debates, 2 or 3 in number at interval, carried the affair of great political import through. The reigning King abdicated, and abdicated in favour of the man next to him in the line of succession to the throne in an irrevocable manner dismissing away the after claim of any one of his own line. His Premier read the abdication to his Parliament where he is not permitted to go. Another Parliament gave to it a constitutional form that is appropriate.

Morning papers of Thursday gave out news of abdication. From the morning, persons who played important roles in the Drama were seen moving about. All interests centered in White Hall, where a meeting held with the Dominion Secretary, Lord Privy Seal and all legal formalities, settled to be placed to the King in the Royal Household.

Throughout the day till the House of Commons met in the afternoon White Hall was in a great animation. In the current up and down of comings and goings, Mr. Baldwin was seen to leave for the Commons a little before a quarter to three.

Baldwin was to make his statement that day. Crowds massed about White Hall and the House of Parliament. Galleries were packed to their suffocation. Peers,

distinguished visitors, Diplomats crowded themselves in the Galleries ; Chamber House was overflowed over all parts by the members.

The Speaker took the chair and called the first question after the House had said prayers.

After the routine question had been put and answered up, rose Mr. Baldwin in the impatient House, went to the Bar of the House and bowed low to the Speaker. In the tensest scenes he began the proceedings.

"A Message from His Majesty the King, signed by His Majesty's own hand" he said.

As Mr. Baldwin walked towards the Speaker, holding the fateful document—three foolscap sheets stamped with a red seal—he stopped to bow and then continued until, with another bow he handed the document to the Speaker.

Those members who were covered bared their heads as Captain Fitzroy, the Speaker, began to read the words written on the pages which he now held in his trembling hand.

His Majesty's Message

"After long and anxious consideration, I have determined to renounce the throne to which I succeeded on the death of my father, and I am now communicating this my final and irrevocable decision. Realising as I do the gravity of this step, I can only hope that I shall have the understanding of my people in the decision I have taken and the reasons which have led me to take it.

"I will not enter now into my private feelings, but I would beg that it should be remembered that the burden which constantly rests upon the shoulders of a sovereign is so heavy that it can only be borne in circumstances different from those in which I now find myself.

"I conceive that I am not over looking the duty that rests on me to place in the forefront the public interest when I declare that I am conscious that I can no longer discharge this heavy task with efficiency or with satisfaction to myself. I have accordingly this morning executed an instrument of abdication in the terms following :

"I, Edward VIII of Great Britain, Ireland and the British Dominions beyond the seas, King, Emperor of India, do hereby declare my irrevocable determination to renounce the Throne for myself and for my descendants and my desire that effect should be given to this instrument of abdication immediately.

"In token whereof I have hereunto set my hand this 10th day of December, 1936, in the presence of the witnesses whose signatures are subscribed.

(Signed) Edward R. I.

INSTRUMENT OF ABDICATION

I, Edward the Eighth, of Great Britain, Ireland, and the British Dominions beyond the seas, King, Emperor of India, do hereby declare My irrevocable determination to renounce the Throne for Myself and for My descendants, and My desire that effect should be given to this Instrument of abdication immediately.

In token whereof I have hereunto set My hand this tenth day of December, nineteen hundred and thirty six, in the presence of the witnesses whose signatures are subscribed.

SIGNED AT
FORT BELVEDERE
IN THE PRESENCE
OF

Edward R. I.

Albert
Henry
George

"My execution of this instrument has been witnessed by my three brothers, Their Royal Highnesses the Duke of York, the Duke of Gloucester and the Duke of Kent.

"I deeply appreciate the spirit which has actuated the appeals which have been made to me to take a different decision, and I have, before reaching my final determination, most fully pondered over them. But my mind is made up. Moreover, further delay cannot but be most injurious to the people whom I have tried to serve as Prince of Wales and as King and whose future happiness and prosperity are the constant wish of my heart.

"I take my leave of them in the confident hope that the course which I have thought it right to follow is that which is best for the stability of the throne and empire and the happiness of my people. I am deeply sensible of the consideration which they have always extended to me, both before and after my accession to the throne, and which I know they will extend in full measure to my successor.

"I am most anxious that there should be no delay of any kind in giving effect to the Instrument which I have executed, and that all necessary steps should be taken immediately to secure that my lawful successor, my brother; His Royal Highness the Duke of York, should ascend the Throne."

Edward R. I.

Then Mr. Baldwin the Prime Minister of England rose up in somber atmosphere and deep silence, to move his fateful and momentous motion. "That His Majesty's most gracious message be now considered."

In a hushed House he spoke extempore, he spoke deliberately. His considered and deliberate speech never for a moment showed any sign of nervousness. It was really a moment for him, because he told in full the story—how his King had decided to renounce his throne for a lady, whom he loved and whom the English people and Dominions did not wish her to become Queen, as by the fact of her marriage to the king she necessarily becomes Queen. She herself therefore enjoys all the state rights and privileges, which, by both positive law and by custom to that position she is entitled to, and her children would be in the direct succession to the throne.

In deep silence Mr. Baldwin again stood up to move the motion :

Following are his words with which he moved his motion :-

"That His Majesty's most gracious Message be now considered.

Baldwin's speech in support of the motion

"No more grave message has ever been received by Parliament, and no more difficult, I may almost say repugnant, task has ever been imposed upon a Prime Minister. I would ask the House, which I know will not be without sympathy for me in my position to-day, to remember that in this last week I have had but little time in which to compose a speech for

delivery, to-day, so I must tell what I have to tell truthfully, sincerely, and plainly, with no attempt to dress up or to adorn. I shall have little or nothing to say in the way of comment or criticism, or of praise or of blame. I think my best course to-day, and the one that the House would desire, is to tell them so far as I can, what has passed between His Majesty and myself, and what led up to the present situation.

"I should like to say at the start that His Majesty, as Prince of Wales, has honoured me for many years with a friendship which I value, and I know that he would agree with me in saying to you that it was not only a friendship, between man and man, but a friendship of affection. I would like to tell the House that when we said 'Good-bye' on Tuesday night at Fort Belvedere we both knew, and felt, and said to each other that that friendship, so far from being impaired by the discussions on this last week, bound us more closely together than ever, and would last for life.

Premier explains

"Now, Sir, the House will want to know how it was that I had my first interview with His Majesty. I may say that His Majesty has been most generous in allowing me to tell the House the pertinent parts of the discussions which took place between us. As the House is aware, I had been ordered in August and September a complete rest which, owing to the kindness of my staff and the consideration of all my colleagues I was able to enjoy to the full, and when October came, although I had been ordered to take a rest in that month, I felt that I could not, in fairness to my work, take a further holiday, and I came, as it were, on half-time before the middle of

October and, for the first time since the beginning of August, was in a position to look in to things.

"There were two things that disquieted me at that moment. There was coming to my office a vast volume of correspondence mainly at that time from British subjects and American citizens of British origin in the United States of America, from some of the Dominions, and from this country, all expressing perturbation and uneasiness at what was then appearing in the American Press. I was aware also that there was, in the near future, a divorce case coming on, the results of which made me realize that possibly a difficult situation might arise later, and I felt that it was essential that someone should see His Majesty and warn him of the difficult situation that might arise later if occasion was given for a continuation of this kind of gossip and of criticism, and the danger that might come if that gossip and that criticism spread from the other side of the Atlantic to this country. I felt that in the circumstances there was only one man who could speak to him and talk the matter over with him, and that man was the Prime Minister. I felt doubly bound to do it by my duty, as I conceived it, to the country, and my duty to him not only as a counsellor, but as a friend. I consulted, I am ashamed to say—and they have forgiven me—none of my colleagues.

Premier's Private interview with the King :

"I happened to be staying in the neighbourhood of Fort Belvedere about the middle of October, and I ascertained that His Majesty was leaving his house on Sunday, October 18, to entertain a small shooting party at Sandringham, and that he was leaving on the Sunday afternoon. I telephoned from my friend's house on the Sunday morning, and

found that he had left earlier than was expected. In those circumstances I communicated with him through his secretary, and stated that I desired to see him—this is the first and only occasion on which I was the one who asked for an interview—that I desired to see him, that the matter was urgent. I told him what it was. I expressed my willingness to come to Sandringham on Tuesday, the 20th, but I said that I thought it wiser, if His Majesty thought fit, to see me at Fort Belvedere, for I was anxious that no one at that time should know of my visit, and that any rate our first talk should be in complete privacy. The reply came from His Majesty that he would motor back on the Monday, 19th October, to Fort Belvedere, and he would see me on the Tuesday morning. And on the Tuesday morning I saw him.

Far-reaching issues

"Sir, I may say, before I proceed to the details of the conversation, that an adviser to the Crown can be of no possible service to his master unless he tells him at all times the truth as he sees it, whether that truth be welcome or not. And let me say here, as I may say several times before I finish, that during those talks, when I look back, there is nothing I have not told His Majesty of which I felt he ought to be aware—nothing. His Majesty's attitude all through has been—let me put it in this way : Never has he shown any sign of offence, of being hurt at anything I have said to him. The whole of our discussions have been carried out, as I have said, with an increase, if possible, of that mutual respect and regard in which we stood. I told His Majesty that I had two great anxieties—one the effect of a continuance of the kind of criticism that at that time was proceeding in the American Press,

the effect it would have in the Dominions, and particularly in Canada, where it was widespread, the effect it would have in this country.

"British Monarchy—an unique institution"

"That was the first anxiety. And then I reminded him of what I had often told him and his brothers in years past. The British Monarchy is a unique institution. The Crown in this country through the centuries has been deprived of many of its prerogatives, but to-day, while that is true, it stands for far more than it ever has done in its history. The importance of its integrity is, beyond all question, far greater than it has ever been, being as it is not only the last link of Empire that is left, but the guarantee in this country, so long as it exists in that integrity, against many evils that have effected and afflicted other countries. There is no man in this country, to whatever party he may belong, who would not subscribe to that. But while this feeling largely depends on the respect that has grown up in the last three generations for the Monarchy, it might not take so long, in face of the kind of criticisms to which it was being exposed, to lose that power far more rapidly than it was built up, and once lost, I doubt if anything could restore it.

"That was the basis of my talk on that aspect, and I expressed my anxiety and desire, that such criticism should not have cause to go on. I said that, in my view, no popularity in the long run would be weighed against the effect of such criticism. I told His Majesty that I for one had looked forward to his reign being a great reign in a new age. He has so many of the qualities necessary and that I hoped we should be able to see our hopes realized. I was his Prime Minister—

but I wanted to talk it over with him as a friend to see if I could help him in this matter. Perhaps I am saying what I should not say here ; I have not asked him whether I might say this, I will say it because I do not think he would mind it and I think it illustrates the basis on which our talks proceeded. He said to me, not once, but many times during those many, many hours we have had together, and especially towards the end, 'You and I must settle this matter together ; I will not have anyone interfering.'

The divorce Proceeding :

"I then pointed out the danger of the divorce proceedings, that if a verdict was given in that case that left the matter in suspense for some time, that period of suspense might be dangerous, because then everyone would be talking, and when once the Press began, as it must begin some time in this country, a most difficult situation would arise for me, for him, and there might well be a danger which both He and I had seen all through this—I shall come to that later—and it was one of the reasons why he wanted to take this action quickly—that is, that there might be sides taken, and factions might grow up in this country in a matter where no faction ought ever to exist.

"It was on that aspect of the question that we talked for an hour, and I went away glad that the ice had been broken, because I knew that it had to be broken. For some little time we had no further meetings. I begged His Majesty to consider all that I had said. I said that I pressed him for no kind of answer, but would he consider everything I had said ? The next time I saw him was on Monday, November 4th. That was at Buckingham Palace. On that date the

decrees nisi had been pronounced in the divorce case. His Majesty had sent for me on that occasion. I had meant to see him later in the week, but he had sent for me first. I felt it my duty to begin the conversation, and I spoke to him for a quarter of an hour or twenty minutes on the question of marriage.

Voice of the People :

"Again, we must remember that the Cabinet had not been in this at all. I had reported to about four of my senior colleagues the conversation at Fort Belvedere. I saw the King on Monday, November 16, and I began by giving him my view of a possible marriage. I told him that I did not think that a particular marriage was one that would receive the approbation of the country. That marriage would have involved the lady becoming Queen. I did tell His Majesty once that I might be a remnant of the old Victorians, but that my worst enemy would not say of me that I did not know what the reaction of the English people would be to any particular course of action, and I told him that so far as they went, I was certain that, that would be impracticable. I can not go further into the details, but that was the substance. I pointed out to him that the position of the King's wife was different from the position of the wife of any other citizen in the country; it was part of the price which the King has to pay. His wife becomes Queen; the Queen becomes the Queen of the country; and, therefore, in the choice of a Queen the voice of the people must be heard. It is the truth expressed in those lines that may come to your minds:

'His will is not his own;

For he himself is subject to his birth.

He may not, as unvalued persons do,
Carve for himself : for on his choice depends
The safety and the health of the whole State."

"Then His Majesty said to me I have his permission to state this that he wanted to tell me something that he had long wanted to tell me. He said, 'I am going to marry Mrs. Simpson, and I am prepared to go.' I said, 'Sir, that is most grievous news, and it is impossible for me to make any comment on it to-day.' He told the Queen that night ; he told the Duke of York and the Duke of Gloucester the next day, and the Duke of Kent who was out of London, either on the Wednesday or the Thursday ; and for the rest of the week, so far as I know, he was considering that point.

"He sent for me again on Wednesday, November 25. In the meantime a suggestion had been made to me that a possible compromise might be arranged to avoid those two possibilities that had been seen, first in the distance, and then approaching nearer. The compromise was that the King should marry, that Parliament should pass an Act enabling the lady to be the King's wife without the position of Queen : and when I saw His Majesty on November 25, he asked me whether that proposition had been put to me, and I said 'yes.' He asked me what I thought of it. I told him that I had not considered it. I said, 'I can give you no considered opinion.' If he asked me my first reaction informally, my first reaction was that Parliament would never pass such a Bill. But I said that, if he desired it I would examine it formally. He said he did so desire. Then I said, 'It will mean my putting that formally before the whole Cabinet, and communicating with the Prime Ministers of all Dominions, and was that his wish ?' He told me that it was. I said that I would do it.

"On December 2, the King asked me to go and see him. Again I had intended asking for an audience later that week, because such inquiries as I thought proper to make I had not completed. The inquiries had gone far enough to show that neither in the Dominions nor here would there be any prospect of such legislation being accepted. His Majesty asked me if I could answer his question. I gave him the reply that I was afraid it was impracticable for those reasons. I do want the House to realize this : His Majesty said he was not surprised at that answer. He took my answer with no question, and he never recurred to it again. I want the House to realize—because if you can put yourself in His Majesty's place, and you know what His Majesty's feelings are, and you know how glad you would have been had this been possible—that he behaved there as a great gentleman ; he said no more about it. The matter was closed. I never heard another word about it from him. That decision was, of course, a formal decision, and that was the only formal decision of any kind taken by the Cabinet until I come to the history of yesterday. When we had finished that conversation, I pointed out that the possible alternatives had been narrowed, and that it really had brought him into the position that he would be placed in a grievous situation between two conflicting loyalties in his own heart—either complete abandonment of the project on which his heart was set, and remaining as King or doing as he intimated to me that he was prepared to do in the talk which I have reported, going, and later on contracting that marriage, if it were possible. During the last days, from that day until now that has been the struggle in which His Majesty has been engaged. We had many talks, and always on the various aspects of this limited Problem.

"The House must remember—it is difficult to realize—that His Majesty is not a boy, although he looks so young. We have all thought of him as our prince, but he is a mature man, with wide and great experience of life and the world, and he always had before him three, nay, four things, which in these conversations at all hours, he repeated again and again—that if he went, he would go with dignity. He would not allow a situation to arise in which he could not do that. He wanted to go with as little disturbance of his Ministers and his people as possible. He wished to go in circumstances that would make the succession of his brother as little difficult for his brother as possible: and I may say that any idea to him of what might be called a King's party, was abhorrent. He stayed down at Fort Belvedere because he said that he was not coming to London while these things were in dispute, because of the cheering crowds. I honour and respect him for the way in which he behaved at that time.

"I have something here which, I think, will touch the House. It is a pencilled note, sent to me by His Majesty this morning, and I have his authority for reading it. It is just scribbled in pencil :

"Duke of York. He and the King have always been on the best of terms as brothers, and the King is confident that the Duke deserves and will receive the support of the whole Empire."

"I would say a word or two on the King's position. The King cannot speak for himself. The King has told us that he cannot carry, and does not see his way to carry, these all most intolerable burdens of kingship without a woman at his side, and we know that. This crisis, if I may use the word

has arisen now rather than later from that very frankness of His Majesty's character which is one of his many attractions. It would have been perfectly possible for his Majesty not to have told me of this at the date when he did, and not to have told me for some months to come. But he realized the damage that might be done in the interval by gossip, rumours, and talk and he made that declaration to me when he did, on purpose to avoid what he felt might be dangerous, not only here, but throughout the Empire, to the moral force of Crown which we are all determined to sustain.

"He told me his intentions and he has never wavered from them. I want the House to understand that. He felt it his duty to take into his anxious consideration all the representations that his advisers might give him and not until he had fully considered them did he make public his decision. There has been no kind of conflict in this matter. My efforts during these last days have been directed, as have the efforts of those most closely round him, in trying to help him to make the choice which he has not made: and we have failed. The King has made his decision to take this moment to send this Gracious Message because of his confident hope that by that he will preserve the unity of this country, and of the whole Empire and avoid those factious differences which might so easily have arisen.

"It is impossible, unfortunately, to avoid talking to some extent to day about one's self. These last days have been days of great strain, but it was a great comfort to me, and I hope it will be to the House, when I was assured before I left him on Tuesday night, by that intimate circle that was with him at the Fort that evening, that I had left nothing undone that I could have done to move him from the decision at which he

had arrived, and which he has communicated to us. While there is not a soul among us who will not regret this from the bottom of his heart, there is not a soul here to-day that wants to judge. We are not judges. He has announced his decision. He has told us what he wants us to do, and I think we must close our ranks, and do it.

"At a later stage this evening I shall ask leave to bring in the necessary Bill so that it may be read the first time, printed and made available to members. It will be available in the Vote Office as soon as the House has ordered the Bill to be printed. The House will meet to-morrow at the usual time, 11 o'clock, when we shall take the second reading and the remaining stages of the Bill. It is very important that it should be passed into law to-morrow, and I shall put on the Order Paper to-morrow a motion to take Private Members' time and to suspend the Four o'Clock Rule.

"I have only two other things to say. The House will forgive me for saying now something which I should have said a few minutes ago. I have told them of the circumstances under which I am speaking, and they have been very generous and sympathetic. Yesterday morning when the Cabinet received the King's final and definite answer officially, they passed a Minute, and in accordance with it I sent a message to His Majesty, which he has been good enough to permit me to read to the House with his reply.

"Mr. Baldwin, with his humble duty to the King.

"This morning Mr. Baldwin reported to the Cabinet his interview with Your Majesty yesterday, and informed his colleagues that Your Majesty then communicated to him informally Your firm and definite intention to renounce the Throne.

"The Cabinet receivd this statement of Your Majesty's intention with profound regret, and wished Mr. Baldwin to convey to Your Majesty immediately the unanimous feeling of Your Majesty's servants.

"Ministers are reluctant to believe that Your Majesty's resolve is irrevocable, and still venture to hope that before Your Majesty pronounces any formal decision Your Majesty may be pleased to reconsider an intention which must so deeply distress and so vitally affect all Your Majesty's subjects.

"Mr. Baldwin is at once communicating with the Dominion Prime Ministers for the purpose of letting them know that Your Majesty has now made to him the informal intimation of Your Majesty's intention."

"His Majesty's reply was received last night.

"The King has received the Prime Minister's letter of the 9th December, 1936, informing him of the views of the Cabinet.

"His Majesty has given the matter his further consideration, but regrets that he is unable to alter his decision.

My last words on that subject are that I am convinced that where I have failed no one could have succeeded. His mind was made up, and those who know His Majesty best will know what that means.

"This House to-day is a theatre which is being watched by the whole world. Let us conduct ourselves with that dignity which His Majesty is showing in this hour of his trial. Whatever our regret at the contents of the message, let us fulfil his wish, do what he asks and do it with speed. Let no word be spoken to-day that the utterer of that word may

regret in days to come, let no word be spoken that causes pain to any soul, and let us not forget to-day the revered and beloved figure of Queen Mary, what all this time has meant to her, and think of her when we have to speak, if speak we must, during this debate. We have, after all, as the guardians of democracy in this little island to see that we do our work to maintain the integrity of that democracy, and of the monarchy which, as I said at the beginning of my speech, is now the sole link of our whole Empire, and the guardian of our freedom. Let us look forward and remember our country and the trust reposed by our country in this, the House of Commons, and let us rally behind the new King—(Hon. MEMBERS : 'Hear hear') — stand behind him, and help him ; and let us hope that, whatever the country may have suffered by what we are passing through, it may soon be repaired, and that we may take what steps we can in trying to make this country a better country for all the people in it."

Mr. Baldwin in an age of Democracy and more enlightened civilisation has almost finished his task of unmaking a King and making a King with own hand.

The submissive House cheered him with a roar when he resumed his seat after finishing his say in the matter. He appeared greater. His was the speech of the occasion that dominated the proceeding of the Parliament in their effecting the Abdication by pressing it to a Bill. He proved himself as a man who had handled a delicate question with that and skill surpassing expectation.

Then Mr. Attlee rose and said:

"Mr. Speaker. In view of the grave and important message which has been received from His Majest., I would

ask you whether it would not be desirable to suspend the sitting till, say, six o'clock, in order that members may give it due consideration?"

To which the Speaker replied :

"If it is the wish of the House, I am prepared to suspend the sitting until six o'clock, and to resume the chair at that hour."

The House was accordingly adjourned at 4.33 P. M. and members gathered into the lobbies not aggrieved and shocked to sigh over the abdication of King Edward VIII, but advancing to pour out more admiration over Mr. Stanley Baldwin for his notable speech and one-way triumph.

During the adjournment the members flocked into the lobbies to indulge themselves in sensation. They overflowed into the outer corridor where a vast crowd of people were vainly trying to interview their representatives. Members of the Parliamentary Labor party met in room No. 14 to reconsider their attitude, and to determine decision by reversion of their opinion, i. e. the light of the new facts which the speech of Mr. Stanley Baldwin had just revealed. Mr. Attlee outlined this speech before his fellow members, which was generally accepted.

When the House reassembled at six o'clock, the Speaker called first on Mr. Attlee, who said

"This occasion does not, in my view, call for long and eloquent speeches. My words will be few and simple. We have all heard with profound concern the message from His Majesty the King. The Prime Minister has related to us the course of events that have led up to this momentous act. The King has decided that he can no longer continue on Throne. The whole

country will receive the news with deep sorrow, and his subjects in these islands and throughout the British Dominions beyond the Seas will feel a sense of personal loss. I am certain that, throughout these anxious days, he has had the sympathy of all, in the tragic dilemma with which he has been faced. That sympathy is due not only to the nature of the issue, involving as it does the strongest human emotions, but to the personal affection which he has inspired in his people. No British Monarch has been so well known by his subjects. The people not only in his country but throughout Commonwealth and the Empire, have seen in him, not a remote Ruler, but a man who personally acquainted with many of them and had visited the places where they live.

'For many years, as the Prince of Wales, he served his country. He shared its joys and sorrows in the dark days of the War and in time of peace. It seems but the other day that he was called upon to take the greater responsibilities of Sovereign over a quarter of the peoples of the world. We all know his personal charm, his courage, and his ready sympathy with suffering. We, on these benches, can never forget how he felt for the miners in their time of trial, and how he showed his deep interest in the unemployed and the people of the distressed areas. Now he has had to make a difficult choice. Powerful personal and human considerations have conflicted with obligations and responsibilities of his high calling. I am sure that all of us have been trying to think of some way by which this conflict could be resolved. We realized the grave objections to every course and we hoped it would not come to abdication; but the King has made his decision. He has resolved to abide by it, and we can do no other than accept it.

"The wish of all his people will be that he may have a long and happy life. We can all appreciate the strain which these events have placed on the Prime Minister, and he is entitled to our sympathy. The country has received a severe shock. It will take time to recover. The position of anyone who in these days of pressing problems at home and abroad, is called upon to accept the Throne in these unprecedented circumstances, is obviously one of very great strain. It will be the endeavour of all of us to do what we may to lighten that burden. I would like to express on behalf of myself and my colleagues our deepest sympathy with Queen Mary and the other Members of the Royal Family."

Mr. Attlee was followed by the leader of the Opposition Liberals, Sir Archibald Sinclair :

The whole country and the Empire have been passing through days of stress and tension, and the climax to which events have now marched has aroused in all of us the deepest feelings of grief and frustration. We are bound to our King not only by formal and solemn ties, by our oaths of allegiance and by our recognition of the Crown as the link which unites all the peoples of the Empire but also by those closer and more personal link which the Leader of the Opposition has so simply and so eloquently described, and which the King has forged between himself and his people—people of all classes, of all creeds and of all races in every part of his Dominions—during nearly a quarter of a century of Royal service. The rupture of those ties is profoundly painful to us all. It must be most painful to those right hon. gentlemen who, during these brief months of his Reign have been his Ministers and confidential advisers ; above all, to the Prime

Minister, his closest and most intimate adviser, who deserves our sympathy and to-day also our gratitude for the grave but clear and moving statement which it was his melancholy duty to make to us this afternoon.

"Let us also gratefully and respectfully acclaim the political wisdom which His Majesty has shown in discountenancing any attempt to divide the country on the issues to which his proposed marriage gave rise. It is in large measure due to his Majesty's wise and strong restraint, and to his recognition of the supremacy of Parliament and the constitutional responsibility of Ministers, that the Crown has not become involved in our political controversies, but remains above and aloof from them.

Morganatic Marriage Bill

"The Leader of the Opposition spoke of the earnestness and the anxiety with which all of us have been exploring the possibility of finding some means by which this conflict could be resolved. The Prime Minister referred to the possibility of a Morganatic Marriage Bill ; I think it only right to tell the House that I could not have supported it. It is not only the law of our country but it is also, I believe, a sound health and essential element in the monarchical principle itself that the lady whom the King marries must become Queen and share with him before the whole people, the glorious burden of sovereignty. Such a Bill would, moreover, under the Statute of Westminster, have had to pass through all the Parliaments of the United Kingdom and the Dominions, before it could have become valid in this country or in any of the Dominions, and the attempt to do so would have involved the Throne in prolonged controversy which would have gravely impaired

its prestige and dignity. In my judgment the Government had no option but to reject the proposal.

"No man deserves more the generous sympathy and support of the British people at this time than the devoted brother and loyal subject of the present King whose duty it will be to succeed him on the Throne. He has enjoyed some but not all of the opportunities which long tenure of the dignity of Prince of Wales usually affords the Heir to the Throne of becoming well-known to the people of this country, but he has worked hard for many good causes. Thousands of young people who have shared with him the unconventional delights of camp life can testify to his good comradeship and democratic instincts. None will doubt, his sincerity and high sense of public duty and all will welcome to the Throne that gracious lady, his wife, who was born a commoner, but has won the hearts of the British people by showing a clear and just conception of Royal duty and opportunity in a democratic country.

The dignity of the Throne

"Grief-stricken as we are to-day, it is our duty to face the future with clear eyes and firm resolve. Any prolongation of the crisis would be fraught with peril. For my own part, I doubt whether under any system of Government a crisis of this gravity could be solved with as little disturbance to the body politic as under our system of constitutional monarchy. This, at any rate, is certain that the prompt action which the King himself has enjoined upon us will best serve the dignity of the Throne, the reputation of our Parliamentary institutions and the happiness, prosperity and peace of the British people."

After Sir Archibald Sinclair had resumed seat, the debate passed on to those who had dissented during days when the issue had lain in suspense.

And now Mr. Churchill who is the carrier of the tradition of the giants of the nineteenth century rose again in a tense home and the speaker called his name. The members in the chamber leaned forward to hear him with expectation as they remembered it full well that when on Monday he rose in his position to put supplementary question to the Premier they would not hear him at all. Now they were eager to hear him as to whether he would carry his sword further as he is known to be the real orator of the House or he would complacently say his concurrence with what had been done and which now seemed to be irrevocable.

Mr. Churchill said—"Nothing is more certain or "more obvious than that recrimination or controversy at this time would be not only useless, but harmful and wrong. What is done is done. What has been done, or left undone, belongs to history, and to history, so far as I am concerned it shall be left. I will, therefore, make two observations only. The first is this : It is clear from what we have been told this afternoon that there was at no time any constitutional issue between the King and his Ministers, or between the King and Parliament. The supremacy of Parliament over the Crown : the duty of the Sovereign to act in accordance with the advise of his Ministers, neither of those was ever at any moment in question. Supporting my right hon. friend, the leader of the Liberal Party, I venture to say that no Sovereign has ever conformed more strictly or more faithfully to letter and spirit of the constitution than his present Majesty. In fact he has voluntarily made a sacrifice for the peace and

strength of his Realm which go far beyond the bounds required by the law and the constitution. This is my first observation.

"My second is this : I have, throughout, pleaded for time ; anyone can see how grave would have been the evils of protracted controversy. On the other hand it was, in my view, our duty to endure these evils, even at serious inconvenience if there was any hope that time would bring a solution. Whether there was any hope or not is a mystery which at the present time it is impossible to resolve. Time was also important from another point of view. It was essential that there should be no room for aspersions, after the event, that King had been hurried to his decision, I believe that if this decision had been taken last week, it could not have been declared that it was an unhurried decision, so far as the King himself was concerned, but now I accept wholeheartedly what the Prime Minister has proved, namely, that the decision taken this week has been taken by His Majesty freely, voluntarily and spontaneously in his own time and in his own way. As I have been looking at this matter as his well known from angle different from that of most hon. members, I thought it my duty to place this fact also upon record.

"That is all I have to say upon the disputable part of the matter, but I hope the House will bear with me for a minute or two, because it was my duty as Home Secretary, more than a quarter of a century ago, to stand beside his Majesty and proclaim his style and titles at his investiture as Prince of Wales amid the sun-lit battlements of Caernarvon Castle, and ever since then he has honoured me here and also in war-time, with his personal kindness and I may even say, friendship. I should have been ashamed if in my independent and unofficial position I had not cast about for every lawful means, even the

most forlorn, to keep his on the Throne of his fathers, to which he only recently succeeded amid the hopes and prayers of all. In this Prince there were discerned qualities of courage, of simplicity, of sympathy and, above all, of sincerity, qualities rare and precious which might have made his Reign glorious in the annals of this ancient Monarchy. It is the acme of tragedy that these very virtues should, in the private sphere, have led only to this melancholy and bitter conclusion. But although our hopes to-day are withered, still I will assert that his personality will not go down uncherished to future ages, that it will be particularly remembered in the homes of his poorer subjects, and that they will ever wish from the bottoms of their hearts for his private peace and happiness of those who are dear to him.

I must say one word more, and I say it especially to those here and out of doors—and do not underrate their numbers who are most poignantly afflicted by what has occurred. Danger gathers upon our path. We cannot afford—we have no right—to look back. We must look forward, we obey the exhortation of the Prime Minister to look forward. The stronger the advocate of monarchical principle a man may be, the more zealously must he now endeavour to fortify the Throne and to give His Majesty's successor that strength which can only come from the love of a united nation and Empire.

But the end has not yet come to the debate. After Mr. Churchill and two or three members from the opposition were on their feet to catch the Speaker's eye.

Mr. Maxton, called by the Speaker, said on this momentous question :

"I rise to say a few words on this unprecedented situation in which the House of Commons finds itself to-day, and I realize that I am speaking in a House in which an overwhelming proportion of the membership is under feelings of very strong emotion. I respect these emotions, although I do not entirely share them. The monarchical institutions of this land date back to very early times, and by many are regarded as sacrosanct and everlasting. I share with others in this House the human sympathies that go out to his Majesty as a man confronted with the difficulties with which he as a man has been confronted in these recent weeks. I share the same human sympathies, with the Prime Minister, who had to shoulder a task which few, if any, of the occupants of his office have ever had to shoulder before, and in the nature of the case, has had to shoulder it alone. The decisions that he has made are, I believe, in strict accordance with its conservative principles, on which he has been chosen as the leader of this country in the House of Commons, and, therefore, I make no criticism of them whatever. But I do say that, in the very nature of the monarchical institutions on an hereditary basis, circumstances to this kind were bound to arise and they have arisen now in conditions which have created very grave difficulties for this country and for the Empire over the seas.

Monarchical institutions have outlived its usefulness

"It is a question whether now this House will not be prepared to look at this particular political problem that has been forced upon our attention to-day as a practical political problem, one among many that intelligent men in the twentieth century must confront, recognizing that the problems of our age cannot be met and solved with the ideas and the institution

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which have come down to us from earlier times. We are living in a new kind of world, with new kinds of problems, and the institutions that date back centuries, however much reverence they may inspire because of their ancient origin and the traditions and association that have become attached to them over the centuries, are not necessarily the institutions which can cope with the problems of modern times. We, therefore, intend, however it may be against the general run of opinion in this House, to take strongly the view that the lesson of the past few days and of this day in particular, is that the monarchical institution has now outlived its usefulness. (Hon. Members : No.) The happenings of the past few days have only indicated the grave perils that confront a country that has as its centralising, unifying figure an hereditary personality who at any time may break under the force of the circumstances that gather round about him. We hope to take the opportunity given us, when steps are being taken to make good the evil and injury that have already been done to try to persuade this House now to face the situation with the idea in their minds that for the future Great Britain and its allied countries across the seas shall become, among other advanced countries in the world, one of the republican nations."

The Colonel Josiah Wedgood made amends for his intercession at the onset of this crisis :

It is too early now

"I put a Motion on the Paper and I do not regret it ; but after the sincere and admirable speech of the Prime Minister, that Motion is dead. I could have wished that the King had been allowed to live here married, happy, and King but he has wished otherwise. A thousand years hence, perhaps, we

shall be liberal enough to allow such a thing : it is too early now. He has been very kind to me and to a great many people throughout this Empire personally known to him, and I think we may all wish him a happy life there, if not here. The right hon. Gentleman has made it perfectly clear that in spite of what I wished, and many others wished, there were really only two alternatives—to continue lonely, disappointed, bitter, ruling the Empire, or else to do what he has done, to throw up royalty and remain a man. We shall all commend him for that choice of the two, for nothing could have been worse than a Kingdom ruled by a man with a grievance partly hostile to every Minister who had put him in the dilemma.

[Hon. MEMBERS : "No !"]—collecting round him false friends—[Hon. MEMBERS : "No !"]—collecting round him those who would use the King's feelings against the Ministry and against the Constitution. That would be an alternative which everyone must have seen ahead of us, the most dreadful alternative. To-morrow we shall take a new Oath of Allegiance. There will be no non-jurors this time, because it is by the King's wish that we take it. There will be no non-jurors below the gangway, no non-jurors throughout the country. There will be, I would say, millions of people with aching hearts. They will carry on for England. They will take that oath because he wished it, and, if they sometimes raise their glass to the King across the water, who shall blame them ?.

The audience thought that the last has been said, but Mr. Speaker then called Gallacher's name. Mr. Gallacher dropped his paper on the seat, and said :

"I would like just to remark that the concluding sentence of the right hon. Gentleman (the Member for Epping

(Mr. Churchill) happened to be the first note that I have in my hand. Danger lies before us, and it is going to be very bad if we close our eyes to that fact. It is very nice to hear right hon. Members talking about the necessity for all standing together, but how was it possible that such a crisis as has arisen should come upon us? The King and Mrs. Simpson do not live in a vacuum. Sinister processes are continually at work.

Morganatic Marriage again :

"I would direct your attention to the fact that the Prime Minister told us that he was approached about a morganatic marriage, but he did not tell us who approached him. He told us that, when he went to the King later, the King asked him if he had been approached on this matter. It is obvious that forces were operating, advising and encouraging what was going on. It is a year since I heard about Mrs. Simpson. Perhaps it is the same with other Members. No one paid very much attention to Mrs. Simpson or to what she was doing until more and more difficulties arose in Europe, and then there was a move for a decree nisi. This is not something decided on by the King and Mrs. Simpson on her own. I want to make it understood if I possibly can that we have here not an issue between the King and Parliament, for Parliament has never been consulted from beginning to end—interviews, secret and otherwise, but Parliament not consulted and the forces operating, two forces fighting with one another on this issue, as they have been fighting continually on every important issue that has come on foreign policy. I am concerned with the working class, I see terrible dangers arising.

There is not an hon. Member here who, if he asks himself the question, believes that this finishes the crisis and that the forces which have been operating behind this will now stop. There is victory for one group at the moment, but they will not stop. The forces will go on.

Real aspect of the issue :

"I want to draw attention to the fact that Mrs. Simpson has a social set, and every Member of the Cabinet knows that the social set of Mrs. Simpson is closely identified with a certain foreign Government and the Ambassador of that foreign Government. It is common knowledge, and round about this issue is the issue that is continually arising when other Debates come on. I say it is not an issue between the King and Parliament. It is an issue between two groups which are fighting continually for domination, and it is a thousand pities that the Labour movement should show any signs of falling into the trap. The only hope for the working class is that the Labour Movement should adopt an independent policy and pursue it against these groups, accept the proposal of the hon. Member for Bridgeton (Mr. Marton) and finish with it all. No one can go out before the people of the country and give any justification for clinging to the Monarchy. You all know it. You will not be able, no matter what you do, to repair the damage that has been done to the Monarchical institution. If you allow things to go on as they are going, you will encourage factions to grow, and factions will grow, of a dangerous and desperate character, so far as the mass of the people are concerned. I appeal to the Labour movement to take strong, determined action to arouse the people of the country to the urgent need of uniting all their forces for peace and progress.

in face of the dangers that lie in their path—the very terrible dangers that are bound to confront us in the very near future."

Then rose Mr. George Buchanon who spoke the last words of opposition :

"I feel that I ought to express my own view and go a step farther than my hon. Friend the member for Bridgeton (Mr. Maxton). I should not be honest if I did not do so. I have listened to more cant and humbug than I have ever listened to in my life. I have heard praise of the King which was not felt sincerely in any quarter of the House. I go further. Who has not heard the tittle-tattle and gossip that is going about? If he had not voluntarily stepped from the Throne, everyone knows that the same people in the House who pay lip service to him would have poured out scorn, abuse and filth. Some months ago we opposed the Civil List. To-morrow, we shall take the same line. I have no doubt that you will go on praising the next King as you have praised this one. You will go on telling about his wonderful qualities. If he is a tenth as good as you say, why are you not keeping him? Why is everyone wanting to unload him? Because you know he is a weak creature. You want to get rid of him and you are taking the step to-day.

"The great tragedy of it is this : If an ordinary workman had been in this mess, everyone in the House of Commons would have been ashamed of him. You would have refused him benefit. You would have ill-treated him. Look at the Minister of Labour sneering at collusive action. (Hon. MEMBERS : "No, no") Everyone knows it. The whole Law Courts were set at defiance for this man. A divorce case wa-

taken when everyone of you know it was a breaking of the law. What are you talking nonsense about? The law is desecrated. The Law Courts are thrust aside. There is an association which everyone of you know is collusive action. If a little boy in Wales leaves his mother to get 7s. extra, he has to stand the jeers and taunts of a miserable Minister of Labour. Talk to me about fairness, about decency, about equality! You are setting aside your laws for a rich, pampered Royalty. The next set will be pampered too. You will lie and praise them and try to land them above ordinary men. Instead of having the ordinary frailties that all of us have, they will have this additional one, of being surrounded with a set of flunkies who refuse to let them know the truth as others do. To-morrow I will willingly take the step of going out and saying it is time the people ceased to trust those folk, but only trusted their own power and their own elected authority."

"I feel sure that the House and the country will feel that any degree to which we can contribute towards avoiding controversy will be for the good of the Realm. I only want to say two things, not in any representative capacity but as an old soldier. No group in the community enjoys to a greater degree the understanding, the sympathy and the good will of His Majesty, than ex-Service men. I am certain that they will feel not merely that they have lost one who has worked for them for a quarter of a century, but a personal friend. But no group has a deeper sense of the importance of stability and strength at difficult times. I feel certain that their loyalty to the Crown and their help to the new King will be unbounded and will be given in the greatest possible measure that lies in their power.

The Text of the Abdication Bill :

Whereas his Majesty by his royal message of the tenth day of December in this present year has been pleased to declare that he is irrevocably determined to renounce the Throne for himself and his descendants and has for that purpose executed the instrument of abdication set out in the schedule to this Act, and has signified his desire that effect thereto should be given immediately :

And whereas following upon the communication to his Dominions of his Majesty's said declaration and desire, the Dominion of Canada, pursuant to the provisions of Section Four of the Statute of Westminster, 1931, has requested and consented to the inactment of this Act, and the Commonwealth of Australia, the Dominion of New Zealand, and the Union of South Africa have assented thereto :

Be it therefore enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled and by the authority of the same, as follows :

1—(1) Immediately upon the Royal Assent being signified to this Act the instrument of abdication executed by his present Majesty on the tenth day of December, 1936, set out in the schedule to this Act shall have effect, and there upon his Majesty shall cease to be King and there shall be a demise of the Crown and accordingly the member of the Royal Family, then next in succession to the Throne, shall succeed thereto and to all the rights, privileges and dignities thereunto belonging.

(2) His Majesty, his issue, if any, and the descendants of that issue, shall not, after his Majesty's abdication, have any

right, title or interest in or to the succession to the throne, and Section One of the Act of Settlement shall be construed accordingly.

(3) The Royal Marriages Act, 1772, shall not apply to his Majesty after his abdication nor to the issue, if any, of his Majesty or the descendants of that issue.

2—This Act may be cited as his Majesty's Declaration of Abdication Act, 1936.

House of Lords :—

While this procedure was going on in the House of Commons a more decorous sitting of the House of Lords was progressing. In the absence of Lord Hailsham, the Lord Chancellor, the Earl of Onslow was seated on the Woolsack.

At 3-45 the Lord Privy Seal, Viscount Halifax—better known to the world as Lord Irwin—rose and read the King's Message, which at that precise moment the Speaker was reading to the crowded Commons. The formal reading over, he proceeded to voice the sentiments of the Government, of which he was the representative in the House of Lords.

Viscount Halifax said :

"I suppose that the feeling which is uppermost in the minds of all the people of this country, as in all parts of His Majesty's Empire, is one of bewilderment at the suddenness of the loss we have sustained, together with a deepening sense of sorrow as we come to realize its full significance. It is not difficult to appreciate how stern must have been the contest for His Majesty between conflicting loyalties. To few indeed is it given to be immune from such interior civil war; but for none surely can the burden of decision in the solitary sphere of conscience have been so sorely weighted by the

knowledge of its inevitable impact upon the life of the whole Commonwealth, of which the man who had to make decision was also Sovereign head.

"It is no part of his subjects' duty, even if their hearts allowed, to pass judgment upon the conclusion which His Majesty has felt impelled to reach. We can but signify our profound emotion at the outcome of these days and weeks of painful stress, and give, if we may, a humble assurance of how close our thoughts are to those of his family who stand nearest to the King, and especially to Her for whom the noble Marquess spoke the feeling of the whole House on tuesday.

"Your Lordships will recall the universal sense of public and of personal deprivation that followed the death of His Late Majesty, and how all who owed allegiance to the British Crown sought comfort in the promise of the new reign then begun. We knew and we have valued all that His Majesty had it in his power to give by way of inspiration, encouragement and understanding, and it is with great sadness that we have learnt of the untimely withdrawal of these gifts from the service of the State. Your Lordship will neither expect nor wish me to say more. We are yet too close to the unhappy sequence of events that has so suddenly overwhelmed both those early anticipation and our hopes."

Lord Snell then spoke for the Labour Opposition :

"My Lords, you will have heard the statement which has been made to the House with sorrow and with deep regret. All of us had hoped that the appeals which had been made to His Majesty would have induced him to reach a different conclusion. It seems only a few short days since

Edward VIII ascended the Throne amid the heartfelt greetings of his people. There is not one of us who did not wish for him a long, a happy, and a prosperous reign, and none of us would have withheld from him co-operation in any effort necessary for the good of our nation and of His Majesty's personal happiness and well-being. To-day we have a different and melancholy situation to face. By his own will and against the earnest solicitations, many times repeated, of his responsible advisers, His Majesty has decided to take this momentous step. We can only with infinite regret accept his decision. He is the master of his own destiny, and he has made his choice. This is not the occasion when any criticism of the issues in this grievous matter could usefully be made. Our thoughts and feelings are so deeply concerned with the personal sorrow of parting with and from a Ruler whose career and promise some of us have followed with hope and satisfaction since his birth, that other matters seem inappropriate.

"I am certainly not in a position to speak concerning the facts, because I do not know them. Less, perhaps, than any of your Lordships can, we on these Benches venture upon an interpretation of the King's mind. We know him only in his official capacity, and we have had no closer contact with him than has been enjoyed by the general public. We do not complain of that, but it does lessen the opportunity to offer to him understanding assistance at this, the great crisis of his life. I hope your Lordships will agree that in a position of unusual difficulty and without the information, which has been available to the Government, my own Party has tried to face this tragic situation with a becoming dignity and restraint. Now that the deciding step is taken, and we are called upon to accept the

Abdication of a king to whom we were bound by many precious experiences and memories, it only remains to us to think of him as in happier days and to express our deep sympathy with him in the difficult issues that he had to face. Members of my own party have special reasons of sorrow at his departing. As a Prince he was sympathetic and progressively minded, and as a King he showed great interest in the well-being of the poorer sections of his people. His sympathy with the miners in the hour of their great need and his more recent and courageously expressed sympathy with the unemployed workers in the Distressed Areas make this occasion for us one of special sorrow and regret.

"There is nothing more to be said. We must accept a situation which we have not made and which we cannot influence. And yet there remains two things that I must say—first to express our sympathy with the Prime Minister who has had both long and arduous and most difficult duties to perform. In my opinion, with such facts as are at my disposal, he sought to be a good friend to the King and to fulfil at the same time his duty to the nation and Empire which his position as Prime Minister imposed upon him. The second thing I must do is, on behalf of my noble friends, to express our very sincere sympathy with Queen Mary and with all the members of her family. May I venture to hope that Her Majesty will be comforted at this hour by the constant and affectionate good will of the people of the British nation and the peoples of the British commonwealth and Empire. Our minds inevitably and anxiously turn to the problems of the immediate future. Certain consequential decisions will be required following what we do here to-day and some of them will require the careful consideration of Parliament."

Second Reading of the Bill :

On Friday, December 11, at eleven o'clock, Mr. Baldwin in a cheering house moved the second reading of the Bill. In doing so, he said :

"The provisions of this Bill require very few words of explanation. It is a matter which, of course, concerns the Dominions and their Constitutions, just as it concerns us. As the House will see, four Dominions—Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa—have desired to be associated with this Bill. As regards the Irish Free State, I received a message from Mr. De Valera yesterday telling me that he proposed to call together his Parliament together to-day to pass legislation dealing with the situation in the Irish Free State.

"The legal and constitutional position is somewhat complex, and any points with regard to it which anyone desires to raise would more properly be dealt with at a later stage.

"The Bill gives effect to His Majesty's Abdication, and provides that His Royal Highness, the Duke of York, shall succeed to the Throne in the same way and with the same results as if the previous reign had ended in the ordinary course. It is necessary to have an Act of Parliament because the succession to the Throne is governed by the Act of Settlement, which makes no provision for an abdication or for a succession consequent upon an abdication. It is also necessary expressly to amend that Act by eliminating His Majesty, and his issue and descendants from the succession. This is effected by Subsections (1) and (2) of Clause 1.

"Sub-section (3) deals with the Royal Marriages Act, 1772. This Act provides, in effect, that no descendants of George II.

other than the issue of princesses, married into foreign families, shall be capable of contracting a marriage without the consent of the King, with the proviso that where that consent is refused in the case of such a descendant above the age of 25, he may give notice to the Privy Council, and the marriage may take place after twelve months, unless within that period both House of Parliament have expressly declared their disapproval of the marriage. The Act was passed merely to provide a measure of control over the marriages of those who might themselves succeed to the Throne, or whose descendants might succeed. It would be clearly wrong that the provisions of the Act should apply to His Majesty, and his descendants who, on passing of this Act will cease to have any right in the succession."

Mr. Attlee's Support :—

Mr. Attlee thereupon indicated the support of his Party to which the House listened with marked approval. He said :

"We on this side desire to support this Bill in order that we may carry out the wishes of His Majesty that this chapter in our history which is closing should be closed with the least possible delay. But a new chapter is being opened, and I want to say a word or two as to why we support this Bill. We are concerned with fundamental economic changes. We are not to be diverted into abstract discussions about monarchy and republicanism. The one essential is that the will of the people should prevail in a democratic country. Further, we want the mind of the nation to return as soon as possible to the urgent problems of the conditions of the people, the state of the world and the great issue of peace.

"I want to say one or two words on the lessons which, I think, we should draw for the future. It is not my intention for a moment to glance at the past. I believe that a great disservice has been done to constitutional monarchy by over-emphasis and by vulgar adulation, particularly in the Press. The interests which stand for wealth and class privilege have done all they can to invest the monarchy with an unreal halo, and to create a false reverence for royalty, and this has tended to obscure the realities of the position. I think, too, the continuance of old-fashioned Court ceremonial, and the surrounding of the Monarch by persons drawn from a narrow and privileged class, has hampered him in his work, and has at times frustrated good intentions. I hope that we shall see a new start made. I believe this is necessary if constitutional monarchy is to survive in the present age. Some pomp and ceremony may be useful on occasion, but we believe that the note of monarchy should be simplicity. We as a party stand for the disappearance of class barriers and moving toward equality, and we believe that in the interests of the Throne, in the interests of the Commonwealth, and in the interests of this country, we should see the utmost simplicity in the monarchy, which will, I believe, bind together people and monarch more closely than before."

An amendment :

Mr. Maxton moved the following amendment, which was seconded by Mr. Campbell Stephen:

"This House declines to give a second reading to a Bill which has been necessitated by circumstances which show clearly the danger to this country and to the British Commonwealth of Nations inherent in an hereditary monarchy, at a

time when the peace and prosperity of the people require a more stable and efficient form of Government of a republican Government of kind, in close contact with, and more responsive to, the will of the mass of the people, and which fails to give effect to the principle of popular election."

Sir John Simon opposing the amendment, said :

"I shall best interpret the general feeling of the House if I do not attempt to deal at any length with this manuscript Amendment. It expresses a sentiment which rouses very deep feelings of resentment in the hearts of most of us, but the conditions are such that it can be discussed calmly and, I hope, with dignity, and certainly briefly.

"It is a measure of the misfortune of all this business that it should give occasion for such an Amendment. It is true that what has happened has deeply, even inexpressibly, shocked the British people—I do not mean merely the events of yesterday, but the incidents and rumours which led up to the events of yesterday. It is right that this should be so, but the fact that it is so only demonstrates how deeply this conception of constitutional Kingship is embeded in our hearts. If it did not represent an idea deeply cherished and profoundly respected, we should care much less about what has happened than we do.

"The institution of the Throne is greater, far greater, than the life or experiences of any individual. If institutions were not greater than our frailty or the inscrutable promptings of an individual human heart, orderly development would be impossible. The hon. Member for Bridgeton (Mr. Maxton) described constitutional Monarchy as a device. Is not the Presidency of a Republic a device? History does not show

that republicanism is a guarantee of stability—certainly not of stability combined with Civil liberty.

"This conception created by the genius of British people and valued as the symbol of Commonwealth unity, can withstand this shock grievous though it be, and will, I believe, be once again vindicated and strengthened in the new reign. The hon. Member for Bridgeton mistakes a most grievous incident in the history of an institution for the break-down of the institution itself. The hon. Member for Camlachie (Mr. Stephen) said just now that he supported this Amendment because he desired the will of the people to prevail. The will of the people will prevail, and when this Bill passes to-night, the individual who ascends the Throne is one who has already won our esteem and who, with his wife at his side, will hold in trust for us this precious position."

The amendment was defeated and the second reading was carried by 403 votes to 5. The committee stage was then reached and the bill went through without much further discussion.

Third Reading of the Bill :

Mr. Baldwin rose to move that the Bill be read a Third time and said: I rise once more to day, and only for a few moments. I do not want this Bill to leave the House without making the few observations which I propose to make. This is the last Bill that will be presented for the Royal Assent during the present reign. The Royal Assent given to this Bill will be the last act of his present Majesty, and I should not like the Bill to go to another place without putting on record, what I feel sure, will be the feeling of this House and of the country that, though we have this duty to perform today and though we

are performing it with unanimity, we can never be unconscious and we shall always remember with regard and affection, the whole-hearted and loyal service that His Majesty has given to this country as Prince of Wales and during the short time he has been on the Throne. Like many of his generation, he was flung into the War as a very young man, and has served us well in trying to qualify himself for that office which he knew must be his if he lived. For all that work I should like to put on record here to-day that we are grateful and that we shall not forget. There is no need on this Bill to say anything of the future. It deals with the fate of him who is still king and who will cease to be king in a few short hours. I felt that I could hardly reconcile it with my conscience or my feelings if I let this Bill go to another place without saying just these few words."

The Third reading was taken without any division, and the House was suspended at 12. 40 p.m. and the Bill went to the Lords. At 1.52 p.m. The Speaker who had resumed the Chair at 1.41, reported that the Royal Assent had been given to the Bill. At 1.55 the Prime Minister rose to state that an Accession Council would meet on the morning of December "12th, to approve the Proclamation to proclaim King George VI."

King Edward's last and King George's first Court Circular was issued.

Thus on the historic day of Friday, December 11, the King Edward's Abdication bill was passed.

King Edward's last and King George's first court circular :

Buckingham Palace, December 11. 1936

The Royal Assent was given at 1. 52 p.m. to-day to His Majesty's Declaration of Abdication Bill."

The Right Hon. Stanley Baldwin, M. P., Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury had an audience of the King this afternoon."

Queen Mary's Message :

Later in the day Queen Mary addressed a message from Marlborough House :

"To the people of the nation and Empire. I have been so deeply touched by the sympathy which has surrounded me at this time of anxiety that I must send a message of gratitude from the depth of my heart.

"The sympathy and affection which sustained me in my great sorrow less than a year ago have not failed me now, and are once again my strength and stay.

"I need not speak to you of the distress which fills a mother's heart when I think that my dear son has deemed it to be his duty to lay down his charge and that the reign which had begun with so much hope and promise has so suddenly ended.

"I know that you will realize what it has cost him to come to this decision ; and that remembering the years in which he tried so eagerly to serve and help his country and Empire you will ever keep a grateful remembrance of him in your hearts.

"I commend to you his brother summoned so unexpectedly and in circumstances so painful, to take his place. I ask you to give to him the same full measure of generous loyalty which you gave to my beloved husband and which you would willingly have continued to give to his brother :

"With him I commend my dear daughter-in-law who will be his Queen. May she receive the same unfailing affection and trust which you have given to me for six and twenty years.

I know that you have already taken her children to your hearts.

"It is my earnest prayer that in spite of, nay through, this present trouble the loyalty and unity of our land and Empire may by God's blessing be maintained and strengthened. May He bless and keep and guide you always.

"MARY R."

The Archbishop of Canterbury and York issued a joint statement concerning prayers for the King and the Royal Family. In this statement Queen Mary is spoken of as the "Queen Mother." It reads :

"Incumbents and all who use the Book of Common Prayer on Sunday next, the first Sunday of a new reign, will desire some guidance as to the form of prayer for the King and the Royal Family.

"Pending the customary formal order, which will be published in due course, we authorize the following changes—namely, for the word 'Edward' wherever it occurs the substitution of the word 'George' and for the words 'our gracious Queen Mary, Albert Duke of York, the Duchess of York and all the Royal Family, the substitution of the words 'our gracious Queen Elizabeth, Mary the Queen Mother, the Princess Elizabeth, and all the Royal Family."

King's valedictory message :

The world was now anxiously waiting for the valedictory message of the late King of the nation.

Ten o'clock arrived. Sir John Reith, Director-General of the B.B.C., announced :

"This is Windsor Castle. His Royal Highness Prince Edward."

Tense listeners heard a door close. Then in the well-known voice he began his last message to the peoples he had served :

"At long last I am able to say a few words of my own.

"I have never wanted to withhold anything, but until now it has not been constitutionally possible for me to speak.

"A few hours ago I discharged my last duty as King and Emperor, and now that I have been succeeded by my brother, the Duke of York, my first words must be to declare my allegiance to him.

"This I do with all my heart.

"You all know the reasons which have impelled me to renounce the Throne, but I want you to understand that in making up my mind I did not forget the country or the Empire, which as Prince of Wales, and lately as King I have for 25 years tried to serve.

"But you must when I tell you that I have found it impossible to carry the heavy burden of responsibility and discharge my duties as King as I would wish to do without the help and support of the woman I love.

"And I want you to know that the decision I have made, has been mine and mine alone. This was a thing I had to judge entirely for myself. The other person most nearly concerned has tried up to the last to persuade me to take a different course.

"I have made this, the most serious decision of my life, only upon a single thought—of what would in the end be best for all.

"This decision has been made less difficult to me by the sheer knowledge that my brother, with his long training in

the public affairs of the country and with his fine qualities, will be able to take my place forth with without interruption or injury to the life and progress of the Empire.

"And he has one matchless blessing, enjoyed by so many of you and not bestowed on me, happy home with his wife and children.

"During these hard days I have been comforted by Her Majesty, my mother, and by my family. The Ministers of the Crown, and in particular Mr. Baldwin, the Prime Minister, have always treated me with full consideration. There has never been any constitutional difference between me and them, and between me and Parliament.

"Bred in the constitutional traditions by my father, I should never have allowed any such issue to arise. Ever since I was Prince of Wales, and later on when I occupied the Throne, I have been treated with the greatest kindness by all classes of people, wherever I have lived or journeyed throughout the Empire. For that I am very grateful.

"I now quit altogether public affairs, and I lay down my burden. It may be some time before I return to my native land, but I shall always follow the fortunes of the British race and Empire with profound interest, and if at any time in the future I can be found of service to His Majesty in a private station I shall not fail.

"And now we all hove a new King. I wish him and you, his people, happiness and prosperity with all my heart. God bless you all. GOD SAVE THE KING!"

The last scene of the Drama

announced by the B. B. C. on 11th December that

the outgoing King Edward VIII would broadcast as a Private citizen and shorn of any shade of Royalty.

Before his announced broad-cast from the Windsor Castle, the outgoing king dined with the new King, Queen Mary, Duke of Gloucester and the Princess Royal at the Lodge Windsor Park. Now the new Queen herself selected the dishes which were favourite to the former King.

When the broad-cast was over he entered his car and took the road to Portsmouth where he boarded the waiting destroyer.

Archbishop of Canterbury broadcast sermon.

'What pathos, nay, what tragedy, surrounds the central figure of these swiftly moving scenes. On the 11th day of December, 248 years ago, King James II fled from Whitehall. By a strange coincidence of the 11th day of December last week, King Edward VIII, after speaking his last words to his people left Windsor Castle, the centre of all the splendid traditions of his ancestors, and his Throne, and went out an exile. In the darkness he left these shores.

"Seldom, if ever, has any British Sovereign come to the Throne with greater natural gifts for his Kingship. Seldom, if ever, has any Sovereign been welcomed by a more enthusiastic loyalty. From God he had received a high and sacred trust. Yet by his own will he has abdicated—he has surrendered the trust. With characteristic frankness he has told us his motive. It was a craving for private happiness.

"Strange and sad it must be that for such a motive, however strongly it pressed upon his heart, he should have disappointed hopes so high and abandoned a trust so great. Even more strange and it is that he should have sought his

happiness in a manner inconsistent with Christian principles of marriage, and within a social circle whose standards and ways of life are alien to all the best instincts and traditions of his people.

"Let those who belong to this circle know that to-day they stand rebuked by the judgment of the nation who had loved King Edward.

"I have shrunk from saying those words. But I have felt compelled for the sake of sincerity and truth to say them.

"Yet for one who has known him since his childhood, who has felt his charm and admired his gifts, these words cannot be the last. How can we forget the high hopes and promise of his youth, his most genuine care for the poor, the suffering of the unemployed, his years of eager service both at home and across the seas ? It is the remembrance of these things that wrings from our heart the cry : "The pity of it, O the pity of it !" To the infinite mercy and the protecting care of God we commit him now, wherever he may be.

"There are two other figures who will always stand out among the memories of these fateful days. One is our ever-honoured and beloved Queen Mary. During all the strain of tense anxiety, deep as her distress has been, her wonderful calmness, self-control, steadiness of judgment have never failed.

"The thought of her reign by the side of her beloved husband for twenty-five years of the sorrow which came to her when he passed from her sight, and of the fresh sorrow which within less than a year she has had to bear, is a threefold cord which binds her fast to the hearts of her people.

"The other person who has earned our gratitude and admiration is the Prime Minister. With great courage he took the whole burden on himself. As one to whom, throughout all these anxieties he has given his confidence, I can personally testify that he has combined, as perhaps he only could, the constitutional responsibility of a Minister with the understanding of a man and the faithfulness of a friend. History will record that he was the pilot who by God's help, steered the ship of State through difficult currents, through dangerous rocks and shoals, into the harbour where now it safely rests.

"So much for the past, and now the future. The darkness of an anxious time is over. A new morning has dawned. A new reign has begun. George VI is King. You can readily imagine what it means to him to be summoned so suddenly, so unexpectedly in circumstances so painful to himself—for he was bound to his brother by ties of closest affection—to face the immense responsibilities of Kingship. Sympathy with him there must be, deep and real and personal. But it passes into loyalty, a loyalty all the more eager, strong, and resolute because it rises from this heart of sympathy.

"It is this whole-hearted loyalty which with one heart and voice the peoples of this Realm and Empire offer him to-day. He will prove worthy of it :

The New King :

"In manner and speech he is more quiet and reserved than his brother, and here may I add a parenthesis which may not be unhelpful. When his people listen to him they will note an occasional and momentary hesitation in his speech. But he has brought it into full control, and to those who hear it need

cause no sort of embarrassment, for it causes none to him who speaks.

"He is frank, straightforward, unaffected. The six thousand boys from our public schools and from the homes of working folk whom for the last fifteen years he has gathered in the comradeship of a summer camp know that he has been himself a boy among them. In varied fields of service, in the Navy, in the Air Force, in association with all manner of public and charitable causes, he has gained a wide experience. He has made the welfare of industrial workers his special care and study. There is no branch of industry where he is not at home. In his visits with the Queen to Central Africa, to Australia and New Zealand he has studied the people and the problems of the great Empire over which he is now called to rule. He has high ideals of life and duty, and he will pursue them with a quiet steadfastness of will. He inherits the name: he will follow the example of King George V, to whose memory let us offer now the homage of our undying affection and respect.

"No passage in the last message of the Duke of Windsor as we must now learn to call our late King, was more touching than that in which he spoke of his brother's 'matchless blessing—a happy home with wife and children.' King George will have at his side the gentle strength and quiet wisdom of a wife who has already endeared herself to all by her grace, her charm, her bright and eager kindliness of heart.

"As for her dear children, I will only say that they are as delightful and fascinating as she was in her own childhood as I remember it over thirty years ago. Truly it is good to

think that among all the homes of the Empire—the homes from which all that is best within it spring—none can be more happy and united than the home of our King and Queen.

"A King has gone. God be with him. A King has come. God bless him, keep him, guide him, now and ever.

"We are all rallying to our new King. Will there not be a rally also to the King of Kings? We still call ourselves a Christian nation. But if title is to be a reality and not a mere phrase there must be a renewal in our midst of definite and deliberate allegiance to Christ—to His standards of life, to the principles of His kingdom.

"We are now able to look forward with hope and joy to the Coronation of our King. He himself and his Kingship will then be solemnly consecrated to the service of the most high God. But the August ceremony will be bereft of a great part of its true meaning unless it is accompanied by a new consecration of his people to the same high service. So may King and people alike, acknowledge their allegiance to God and dedicate themselves to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness."—so declared the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The King gone to exile

It was a dark night. A massive fog had settled on the Channel and was driving inland. People sat wondering at the dream of that vale dictory message of their late Monarch. The King's car raced through the inland country lane, passed quiet houses. Followed two more cars as escort. The car arrived at about 12.30 and the Late King, now Duke of Windsor, went to the house of Admiral Fisher before proceeding to the destroyer. In the chilld small morning hour of December 12, the late King and his small party boarded on the destroyer 'Fury'

at Portsmouth harbour. The destroyer 'Fury' carrying on the self-abdicated Royal Soul and indeed a unique figure out of her anchor, and slipped out of Portsmouth harbour, went away into fog in the dark water of the English Channel for his exile. On exile he went under the cover of dark night, nobody knew if he had cast a longing lingering look behind. A hushed world listened to British popular King renouncing title, estate, Empire for the sake of a woman he so dearly loved. The Fury was now sailing on into the future bearing through the night one who for a brief period was a great King was no longer a King. Simultaneously this scene of patches was closing on. Cabinet Ministers, Law officers, the Church dignities, the King's family and the nation turned away from the scene and proclaimed at three o'clock on the same day the accession of his brother in his succession, Albert, Duke of York as King George VI.

The Church again in thinking who is already on exile.

The crisis is thus averted: 'The king is exiled from the throne, remained not to be unoccupied.' Mr. Stanly Baldwin boldly won. The King dethroned. On 24th May, H. M. King George VI enthroned Baldwin with an Earldom and his son to Viscount.

Girl Unnamed

To draw a pen-picture of a girl who, with echoing and re-echoing with vociferousness, not unmixed with indignation, is called an unnamed girl, is certainly a somewhat venture-some task. One fine morning she was unearthed from this side of the Atlantic by a mighty bachelor king across the high water whose kingdom is far-flung. And instantly she was known to fame though not name, shooting forth glaring lustre from

horizon to horizon which a writer, or a philanthropist or specialist in any branch of art, science or a leader in public life might well envy for. Who is she then? The most romantic figure is she of the day, the amazing drama, the most bewildering personality in recent history, the most awe-awakening breakwater in the high pool of constitutionalism, nay, the amazing heroine of the most amazing drama. The talk of her being an international figure is but a small tribute to her meteoric character. She is now universally known—she is on every lip and has captured the attention of the whole of the world.

She is not a woman of beauty and push and royalty of Cleopatra having a romantic buoyance of her own. She is a poor and unknown girl, born and brought up in a small town of Baltimore in America, of the name of Bessie Wallis Warfield. Afterwards by her second marriage with an English-American gentleman, Ernest Aldrich Simpson on July 21, 1928, she took the name of Mrs. Ernest Simpson round which the present story is woven.

Now in the year 1936 Mrs. Simpson flashed out in all the romantic glamour that has ever amazed the world. Tongues buzz, heads nod, eyes sparkle, minds indulge in speculation, speculation catches on that an American should become Queen of England—the world wonders.

Bessie Wallis Warfield was born in June, 1896, to his father Teackle Wallis Warfield of excellent but poor family of Baltimore. When she was only three years old, her father died and her widowed mother counted her feeble resources sparingly.

Teackle Wallis Warfield and his wife Alice were a handsome couple—and there was a love match, and of this happy marriage was born Bessie Wallis Warfield—no other issue.

Mrs. Teackle Wallis Warfield was a virginic beauty of some name. In her time she had been wooed by many wealthy suitors, but she refused their advances and following the dictates of her heart, married Teackle Wallis Warfield.

Baby Wallis, in appearance, was a little bit like the Warfield and inherited her mother's wit and gracious manner. She is of slender figure, measuring about five feet four inches in length, though her slenderness appears to show her in greater height. Her face is distinctive. Her voice is low-pitched and clear and one who has ever heard cannot forget "all her features, which, though good, yet put together, do not make beauty. The effect is rather that of a sparkling personality and good nature—more commanding, more compelling than beauty. She is self-disciplined, courageous and legal. She is reserved and undemonstrative. She shows affection and tenderness, but not emotions. She is one of the best judges of the people. Subtle in character, her greatest charm is in her complete naturalness."

Family annals

Annals of the Warfield family of Baltimore dated back, when England came under the Normans. Pagan de Warfield, a Norman gentleman, found his Norman family in England and was known to Norman English and his family by such adoption became English. He joined the ranks of William the Conqueror and fought valiantly at the battle of Hastings and contributed more or less to the history of Norman England. He received an English manor as "knight's fee" as reward for his valor and loyalty. The estate was called "Warfield walks." He is also credited with land in Stratford. Robert de Warfield, a descent of Warfield, family, was Knight

of the Order of the Garter by Edward III. A second Pagan de Warfield granted up to the Prior of Morton as free gift which was later known as warfields Pariah. During the reign of King John, John de Warfield lived at Warfield manor in Warfield's Walk, which one of the 16 Walks into which Windsor forest was divided. The annals of Windsor "contains many interesting references to then name of Warfield reporting prominence of the family and its closer association with the royal household of England.

Richard Warfield, the founder of the American branch of English Warfield family, with Howards and several others arrived at the shores of Chesapeake Bay in 1662. There the entire group lived in close association. In Maryland, the names of Opton and Elye appears in the Warfield connection.

Richard Warfield, after a few years of his arrival, acquired an estate to which he gave his own name, Richard Warfield bore the crest of the Paschel Lamb. He was a religious man and was a member of the first vestry of old St. Annie Church. His descendants have been conspicuous in business, politics, professions of Law and Medicine and in military affairs. Dr. Charles Alexander Warfield was one of the founders and president of the medical and surgical Society of Maryland, and one of his sons, Henry, was a member of Congress in 1820. The Warfield produced man, military giants. During the revolutionary war, many of the Warfield family served as rank officer in the militia.

Not a Commoner

The Warfield family, of which Mrs. Simpson is a daughter, has its hoary annals of pronounced association with the

English royal houses having long tradition, producing very many military talents, and celebrated in many other walks of human life. Its aristocracy is older than many a present aristocracy of the aristocracy-ridden English society. America, the new world, has made innovations, and outstanding of them is Commonalty. The American notion of Aristocracy of Europeans is that they level all. So Miss Bessie Warfield of Baltimore, America, romantically known as Mrs. Simpson, was a commoner—not an aristocrat. Subtlety in nature, conviction in one's own way of thinking, character, compelling personality, unostentatious habit, and complete naturalness in life certainly make a man or woman an unoffending aristocrat of nature, but failing to make him or her fit to stand on the same level with a person of personage having socialistic aristocracy. So an aristocrat of nature is a misfit with society aristocrat. Family heritage, family tradition, family celebration, make one aristocratic or make one admissible into any aristocratic family to take its name. And such aristocracies are not wanting in history, old or modern. But in the case of Miss Bessie Wallis Warfield it has been quite the reverse.

Childhood

Much of the childhood of Mrs. Simpson was spent in a home that was a Crown property granted to her ancestors by the British monarch. Her grandparents, both Mr. and Mrs. Henry Macteir Warfield, were born in homes that had been the property of their respective families since the days of the original grants from British Crown. The famous White College in Howard County which was the birthplace of Mr. Warfield is part of the original grants to Richard Warfield, first of the

English Warfield family and a party to the first batch of the few English Birkshire families to come to America and plant English settlement there in 1662. "Manorglein," the ancestral home and birth-place of Mrs. Simpson's grand-mother was also an original grant from the British Crown to the ancestors of Anna Eany who became by marriage Mrs. Henry Maetier Warfield. The Warfield family is known as one of oldest owners in the state Government.

Miss Wallis Warfield used to hear of her grandfather's bold career. The steadfastness of purpose, courage and conviction from her grand-mother, of the status of the family of her father and would put anxious questions.

Mrs. Simpson's father left, when he died, his widow and infant daughter and feeble means to lean on. Mrs. Simpson's uncle who was single and rich, took care of rearing his niece. He was very affectionate to little Wallis. Baby Wallis lovingly enjoyed the company of her uncle with the attention he bestowed on her. Her grand-mother, though liked much by her, became pleasanter to her when her uncle was about.

Her childhood was happy, a devoted mother to take care, strict aristocratic grand-mother to tell the tale of her ancestors, to administer admonition to dear uncle to provide her with exciting surprises, and friends in a band of gentle small boys and girls in the neighbourhood to play with.

Thus the childhood of Mrs. Wallis Warfield passed by and on the approach of her school days, she was sent to Oldfields fashionable boarding school at Glencoe. There she learned History, Geography, Grammar and also learned discipline, gentleness, courtesy, religion, devotion—which were a part of the education imparted to the girls.

Then Wallis Warfield spent two summers at Miss Charlotte Nolands camp for girl near Middleburg. This was not a school. It was designed for recreation, very wholesome, and out-of-door riding, swimming games, picnics, parters and the flying Yankee" were the items that were taught and attended to by the camp girls. Then she came back to Oldfields and stayed few days, where she bade goodbye.

The Romance

In 1914 Wallis Warfield chaperoned by her mother's cousin arrived at Cotikion. Her attending colitteeons brought her out to society after her school-days were over. She at once made a mark for her style and distinction which drew her plenty of admirers. In the winter of 1915 she paid a visit to her cousin Mr. Henry Mustin at Pensocoler. She met Lt. E. Winfield Spencer—her romance began and she married the Lt. Spencer jr.

Wallis Warfield's visit to Pensucola was very pleasant to her. It gave her an introduction to a new life. There she saw under the war-stricken atmosphere young men to risk their lives in aviation and flying, she saw the sky-rocking of their life—there were good times.

Here at Pensocola Wallis Warfield received the first quickening of love and was caught up in romance. And her cousin guessed well the change that came upon Wallis, of all the young officers, Wallis had met and danced with at Pensoccola and accepted invitation, most often she accepted those of Lt. Win Spencer.

The day of farewell came at last. Wallis Warfield returned home in Baltimore with romance in mind. And exchange of letters followed swiftly. The Lt. Spencer was occupied with the thought of nineteen-year-old Wallis Warfield.

Then in summer following the two lovers, Miss Wallis Warfield and Lt. E. Spencer met again at Baltimore and subsequently the engagement was announced. As announced they entered into marriage on Nov. 8th and it was celebrated at Christ Protestant Episcopal church. The marriage in all solemnities and rites united the hands and hearts lawfully and ritually. They were in Florida after their honeymoon trips. These were days of excitement, the war in Europe, the sinking of the S. S. Louisiana in the Pacific, the talk of America joining the war, the war-preparation in man and munition, the American cry of the largest and the best air ships, dread naughts the, lack of trained aviators, the American's aversion to get mixed up with the European politics, the banker's subtle hand in war and in peace, the news of death, departure and transfers of officers, mobilisation of troops, farewells, dances! Such was the period when the two restless youths resolved to seek journey of life in search of transcendent joy and expression.

The Lt. Spencer was getting impatient in the midst of parties, dances and dinners and to join the Air force in France. Both stationed in the most beautiful pleasure-resort of California, they enjoyed the splendid climate, the scenic view of San Diego and decidedly began to like it. There was the charm of the romantic strain in the Love and War. One followed the other. The war and its excitements, enchantments are unknown to the American—its first spur was no less romantic to the untried and unknown.

Lt. Spencer was ordered to Washington whence to Shanghai, China. Mrs. Spencer was glad to see his mother at Baltimore—she was occupying herself with her old acquaintances who, were

the elite of the Washington society. While Lt. Spencer was in Shanghai, Wallis took her first trip to Paris. On her return she made up her mind to proceed to Lt. Spencer at Shanghai—she had her own will.

In the new World—Shanghai

During the period Mrs. Wallis Spencer had trip to Paris in my society and city she had numerous letters of introduction and now in Shanghai, the splendid city in the Orient, noted for international settlement and centre of commerce among the officials she had a unique opportunity of society and parties. The frequent absence of Lt. Spencer from the city drew to her acquaintance circle of officials at Peiping, the official headquarter of the Ambassadors and Diplomats. The frequent trips to Peiping were pleasant ones. Her friends at the Embassy of U. S. A. took special care to record the impression on her magnificent gay life in the midst of the sombre oriental temples and tombs and the palace of the Saints and Monarchs ; reminiscency of her days in Shanghai and Peiping had a special stamp on Wallis Simpson and a new career in future. While Lt. Spencer was in Shanghai and Mrs. W. Spencer was in Peiping society, a year rolled on, new decision was to come. She came back to Warrenton to be near her family the most of them were at Washington. She new some people at Warrenton. In Virginia she was quiet at home and was spending her days in society, and during this period she took a trip to Newyork. Now her uncle whom she had the best of care and rear-up and who made a substantial mention in his will to her niece died in 1927. With the death of her uncle, she had another fateful change in her life. At the Warrenton court she filed a divorce and the charge was desertion on Dec. The decree was granted.

Her enormous visits and trips all these years did not include London. Mrs. Spencer freed from wedlock-bonds whirled into London city. Mrs. Spencer with her splendid heritage of English lineage dating back from the Duke of Normandy and William the Conqueror, with her high social culture and education, her supercharacter as hostess, master of self-possession and assertion, her beauty and wit paved her position in English society. The character of this remarkable woman is very difficult indeed to express. A very smart-personality and one who has seen many interesting men, women and things.

Mrs. Wallis Spencer was once reported to be looking for a job. What was she looking for? Was a job indeed? A mightier fame; a star of course? She would be a splendid business woman with her splendid accomplishments; her ways and manners; with her personal magnetism she could influence—man to do the bargain. But would she do it? In business she would have a splendid success, that was in her lineage, her grand-father was a successful business man. Henry W. Warfield was the first man to build up Grain Elevator in America. She gave up the idea of any business and decided to take travelling along with her aunt Mrs. Buchanan Merryman and this time to Europe. From Paris, they proceeded to London and there again she was encountered with the fateful probability of a new chapter. She met Mr. Ernest Simpson—a gentleman divorced from his wife living in the quiet part of London only as an Attorney for the Ship Chartering firm of Simpson & Simpson—though born at New York city. His father was a British subject by birth. There were inter-marriages in Simpson's family and some one was Knighted by the British Crown. Young Simpson while hardly an

under-graduate, enlisted in the British Coldstream Guards which was King Edward VIII's regiment. After his enlistment he was given the commission rank of the Second Lieutenant. Later after the war he went to America and graduated at the Harvard University. He was a fine-looking man, tall and handsome. The amiable manners and charm soon found Wallis a guest in his company.

The perfect ease and splendid unconscious courtship which won Wallis to Simpson was quite a new thing she has even known before. Wallis in a new Conventional Society felt ease and comfort in the Company of Mr. Simpson who had won her care. In 1928, July 29, Saturday, Mr. Simpson married Wallis Spencer in the simplest way possible. In London they lived in a small house but very attractively furnished, and Wallis made it home-like with flowers and decorations. A year rolled on. Mrs. Simpson was getting home-sick, missing her American friends rather worried with the routine of a quiet home life with its daily rounds of shopping and specialy the English way of doing things. She began to find out in spite of many common things between the two English-speaking races, there was difference in life and in Society in America and England. At the same time with the news flashed that her mother then was very sick in Washington, she hurried over to her side. The last—deepest bond of affection and loyalty was stirred with her mother's death. She was only daughter of her mother who had undivided and a single aim of the child.

This last bond severed her from America and on her return to London her sadness followed her and she received and visited few friends. Slowly the London Society drew Mr. & Mrs. Simpson into the high social circles thro' the American Embassy. They were entertaining a good deal in an inconspicuous way.

They were prominent guests of the English Society. The humble quiet house now moved to and spendiquarter at the Upper Berkeley Street and the apartment was furnished by the best fashionable firm. Mrs. Simpson, of course, turned this into a magnificent home by her proved taste for colour and contributed to her matchless sense of artistic taste.

It was here, her friends and acquaintances prevailed upon her to be presented to the King and Queen, an honour which hardly any one would refuse. To her American spirit this court presentation, the ceremony, the expensive dress did not appeal. When she consented, she borrowed costumes and succeeded in adopting in a very smart and attractive way. The presentation ceremony took place on June, 10, 1931. For the second time she meets the Prince of Wales along with the other royalites on the occasion behind the golden Throne of the father and the mother. Later on at the party given by Lady Furrer, there Mr. & Mrs. Simpson made curtsey to H. R. H. Prince of Wales.

In London Mrs. Wallis Simpson proved the most successful host and many high personages—Lady Oxford, Duke & Dutches—were guests of Mrs. Simpson's. Her manners, her wits and her splendid qualities were talked and remembered and discussed. She fully developed her qualities as a superior person in Society in her splendid heritage from the English lineage and she truly held a position in the new society.

Mrs. Simpson in London :

No. 16 Cumberland was described as her palatial home but really a portion of that magnificent house was her apartment, but it was lavishly furnished ; the dining hall mirror topped adding gaiety to meals. She buys here gowns in Paris, her jewels and gowns and her dresses were the talks of the day. Her

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charm of a controlled manner with an amazing ability to keep her opinions of herself. She has the widest interest in arts and literature, affairs of the state as well as theatres, race etc. Yet she is a keen and thorough observer of men and matters never-failing mind in its details. In her London residence—the most renowned hostesses were her guests—such personages as Lady Oxford, Lord and Lady Suther and, Lord and Lady Mountbatten—a relation of the present royalty.

In the midst of these social, Wallis Simpson was being whirled to an unknown destiny. Londoners were watching with the amazing eye the guests and callers in tea and parties of Wallis Simpson. She is a conquering hero and has made rapid progress in impressing the nobility and even some of the royal visitors and guests. Mr. & Mrs. Simpson were very often found in company with the Prince of Wales at the convent Garden, Embassy club. Behind all these expensive jewels, gowns, dinners and parties the mystery of friendship with the royalty and nobility was slowly unveiling itself, and was getting at the club, the press and men-in the street as well. If one could scan analyse the shades and shadows of the current events in the social life and household of the English Royalists and nobilities the tone and tenure of the much adored and preserved traditions surrounding the English modes in politics and social life, one would notice that the mysterious maiden charge is making her way in her ever mysterious process.

"I am the daughter of earth and water,
And the nursling of the sky
I pass through the pores of the ocean and the shores,
I change, but I cannot die."

and like poet hidden in the midst of thoughts she sings song unhidden and forbidden ties the world is wrought with hopes and fears.

Events moved rapidly leaving the conservative to think and move the bachelor Prince of Wales in company of his select friends have been causing records in history etc. Mrs. Wallis Simpson came to be turnover as of one of the most intimate circle of friends of the bachelor Prince of Wales. The most intimate friends of the Prince also included the traditional friends of the royal household ; who would have undoubtedly noticed the changes the associations were causing. This was known and gossiped and talked out. The world was taken aback not with the event that followed, but with the British attitude—afterwards political, social and religious. It caused a blooded revolution in the annals of British history. It did not break the constitutional procedure of history, but it revealed a newer stiffened attitude of the politicians backed by the Prelates. It was indeed a wonderful achievement in the midst of immense international strains and stress. It is the task of the future historian to unearth the debris of now hidden and forbidden human actions.

Both the Simpson's received invitations to St. James Palace and in the famous cruise on the yacht of the Roseure in 34, a shaperonar by aunt Mrs. Merriman. Mrs. Wallis accompanied the prince in the Caunes. The Prince of Wales, to the delight of the Americans and the amazement of the British, elite danced with Mrs. Wallis. The associations, and intimacy deepened ; the prince and now the king found much in common and affinity. Mrs. Wallis was undoubtedly the great sponsor of the Prince of Wales and the king. She masterfully took care of the bachelor king.

In her company, the King felt security and strength. His health improved and this the Queen Mother was not slow to observe. It was at Fort Belvedere Mrs. Simpson found free display of the character and the charm. The bold and unique spirit of the King could find life in such company as Wallis. The King's attitude and character is yet to be written—a spirit cannot be caged—the rigid bars of conventionality and phrases of constitutionalism to be eternally interpreted by rigid bureaucracy of their contents. The social orders can hardly be maintained when the pillars are falling and cracking.

The next cruise on "Nahalin" included Lord and Lady Brownlow: Lady Diana Duff Copper, Mrs. Fitzgerald, Mrs. Simpson.

Mrs. Simpson went to Paris to attend to some shopping. She left London on a Saturday morning and arrived at Le Bourget airdrome just in time to get to her dress-maker before the latter called it a day.

Hardly had she settled in a chair when the phone rang. England was calling Mrs. Simpson. Having failed to locate her at her hotel, England thought that she would be at her dressmaker's.

The party at the English end of the wire complained of lonesomeness.

"Why don't you take the 'plane and fly back right away?"

Mrs. Simpson explained that it would be impossible. No dressmaker could make a dress in ten minutes.

"But what am I going to do to-night?" asked the party.

Mrs. Simpson made what she thought was a constructive suggestion. Why not hang those pictures that they recently found in the cellar of the Fort Belvedere.

The idea of spending a Saturday night hanging old Italian pictures was not particularly exciting, but the party did not criticise it. The party said instead :

"But how about to-morrow morning ? What am I going to do to-morrow morning ?"

Mrs. Simpson smiled.

"May I recall to you, Sire, that you are supposed to be the Defender of the faith ?"

"Well"

"Why not go to church to-morrow morning ?"

The King laughed. The joke was on him.

He did go to church the following Sunday, much to the surprise of all his friends, who have always taken it for granted that he has little use for either church or bishops.

The Bishop of Bradford, who fired the first shot in the great battle of December, 1936, will be astonished to learn that it was because of Mrs. Simpson and not in spite of her that the Defender of the Faith spent at least one Sunday morning listening to a grave and lengthy sermon.

According to the Bill of Rights passed in 1689, a King of England who marries a Roman Catholic must surrender the Throne to the next Protestant heir. Barring this is no law or any precedent that the King cannot marry whom he loves to be his wife & Queen. Two of his brothers and his sister princess marry commoners. The Duke of York, his successor has a Commoner bride. Besides the Archbishop of Canterbury and other Churchmen believe that such re-marriages can take place. All these arguments smack of puritanic century-old hide-bound customs and rites.

The Duke of Windsor and Miss Wallis Warfield were married at 11.47 A. M. on June 3, 1937.

Historic Wedding

The civil ceremony was conducted by the Mayor of Monts who concluded with the words, "In the name of law we declare you united in bonds of matrimony." Immediately afterwards the newly married couple proceeded to the adjoining music room which was arranged as a chapel—where they knelt on white satin cushions before Reverend Anderson Jardine.

The civil ceremony was very simple. The bride and the bridegroom sat on armchairs and Major Matcalfe as the Duke's witness and Mr. Herman Rogers as Miss Warfield's sat beside them. The bride wore a "Wallis Blue" silk-crepe wedding dress and a blue straw hat trimmed with small blue and pink feathers.

The Duke replied to the Mayor's question whether he would take Miss Warfield with a firm "Oui."

Miss Warfield replied similarly in an unsteady voice.

The Mayor delivered a brief address.

The Mayor in course of addressing "your Royal Highness and Duchess," said: "By one of those caprices in which fate delights, it is under the blue skies and amid the flowers of the garden of France that the most moving of Idylls has blossomed."

The Mayor expressed most sincere wishes to "the Prince who was a wellbeloved sovereign of a friendly nation and her whom His Royal Highness has chosen from a noble country attached to us by the same precious bonds."

The Duke wore a black morning coat with a very dark yellow waistcoat, double collar, grey check tie and a carnation button-hole.

At the conclusion of the wedding ceremonies a bouquet from the Prime Minister, M. Blum, was presented to the bride, and bridegroom.

After the religious ceremony the organ played the wedding march and the Duke and Duchess of Windsor proceeded to the Saloon where they were toasted by the invited guests, after which they posed for several minutes for press photographers. The pressmen left the Castle before the wedding breakfast which followed.

The Duke and Duchess of Windsor left on their honeymoon at 6:30 p. m.

Simplicity and dignity were the keynotes of both civil and religious ceremonies whom the Duke of Windsor marries Miss. Warfield in Chateau de Cande.

In conformity with the French law the civil ceremony was performed by Doctor Mercier, Mayor of Monts, who entered the marriage in the register of Monts among pages filled with entries of weddings of small farmers and village girls. Dr. Mercier read to the couple the Articles of the Civil Code in which occur the word "the husband owes help and protection to the wife and the wife owes obedience to the husband."

The church of England service followed immediately in the flower-decked music room of the Chateau. The Duke and Duchess spent the afternoon among the guests and left by car in the evening to catch the train for Arnoldstein, Austria, from where they will motor to Schloss Wasserleenburg in Carinthia, which the Duke has rented for three months.

The day dawned brightly over the village decorated with British, American and French flags. Strong forces of police closely guarded every approach to the Chateau, scrutinizing

the permits of all motor cars. Guards were scattered over a five mile circle around the estate to ensure privacy of the Duke, his bride and the guests.

The King—The Constitution & The Lady BY—GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

In the Kingdom of the Half Mad that same Prince whose difficulties over his father's illness I formerly chronicled, succeeded to the throne on the death of that same father, and almost at once found himself in difficulties with his cabinet and with the church.

For the new King, though just turned forty, was unmarried and now that he was a King he wanted to settle down and set a good example to his people by becoming a family man.

He needed a gentle, soothing sort of wife, because his nerves were very sensitive and the conversation of his Ministers was often very irritating.

As it happened, he knew a lady who had just those qualities. Her name as well as I can remember it, was Mrs. Daisy Bell, and as she was an American she had been married twice before and was, therefore, likely to make an excellent wife for a king who had never been married at all.

All this seemed natural and proper : but in the country of the Half Mad you never could count on anything going off quietly.

The Government, for instance, would let whole districts fall into ruin and destitution without turning a hair, and then declare that the end of the world was at hand because some foreign dictator had said bluntly that there are milestones on the Dover Road.

And so the King was not surprised when he was suddenly told one day at noon or thereabouts that the Archbishop and the Prime Minister had called and insisted on seeing him at once.

The King having spent the morning with Mrs. Bell, was in a good humour, so he had them up and offered them cocktails and cigars.

But they not only refused this refreshment quite sternly but exhibited such signs of acute mental disturbance that the King had to ask them with some concern, what was the matter.

"How can you ask us, sir?" said the Prime Minister. "The newspapers are full of it. There are photographs. We are not spared even the lady's little dog."

"What is your Majesty going to do about it?"

"Nothing out of the regular course", said the King. "I shall be crowned in May, and in April I shall marry Daisy."

"Impossible," the Prime Minister almost shrieked, "Madness."

"Out of the question", said the Archbishop, whose pulpit voice was a triumph of clerical art. "You cannot marry this woman."

"I had rather you called her Mrs. Bell," said the King. "Or Daisy, if you prefer it."

"If I were to officiate at your proposed marriage I should have to speak of her as "this woman," said the Archbishop. "What is good enough for her in the house of God is good enough, for her here. But I shall refuse to officiate."

"And I shall resign," shouted the Prime Minister.

"How awfull" said the King. "Would it be too brutal of me to remind you that there are others?"

"Sandy MacLoagie will form a King's Party for me in no time. The people are behind me. You may have to resign in any case long before the Coronation.

"Your taunt does not apply to me," said the Archbishop, "the Church will not solemnise an unconstitutional marriage."

'That will get me out of a very grave difficulty,' said the King. 'Religious matters are not so simple for me as they were for William the conqueror, of whose death some of you don't seem to have yet heard.'

'William had only a handful of adventurers to consider, all Christians and Christians of one sort. I have to consider four hundred and ninety five million—call it five hundred—of my subjects.'

'Only eleven per cent of them are Christians; and even that tiny minority is so divided into sects that I cannot say a word about religion without hurting somebody's feelings.'

'As it is my Protestant succession is an insult to the Pope and his Church.'

'If I get married in a church, especially one with a steeple on it, I shall offend the Quaker.'

'If I profess the Thirty Nine Articles of the Church of England I shall bind myself to hold most of my loving subjects as accursed, and oblige hundreds of millions of them to regard me as an enemy of their God.'

'Now, though all the religious stuff in the Coronation business is out of date, I cannot alter it. That is your affair.'

'But I can get legally married without offending the religious feeling of a single soul to my Empire. I shall be married civilly by the district registrar.'

'What have you to say to that?'

'It is unheard-of and outrageous,' said the Archbishop. 'But it would certainly get me out of a very difficult situation.'

'Archbishop,' cried the Prime Minister, 'are you deserting me?'

'I cannot on the spur of the moment find the reply to his Majesty's very unexpected move,' said the Archbishop.

You had better take up the constitutional point while I consider it.'

'It is impossible for your Majesty to defy the constitution, said the Prime Minister. 'Parliament is all powerful.'

'It has that reputation as long as it does nothing,' said the King. 'However I am as devoted to the constitution as you are.'

'Only understand that if you push me to a General Election to ascertain the wishes of my people on this question I am quite ready to face that extremity.'

'You will get a glorious licking. Your very mistaken ballyho in the Press does not impose on me.'

'But there is no question of a General election,' said the Prime Minister. 'Are you prepared to act by the advice of your Ministers or are you not? That is the simple issue between us.'

'Well, what is your advice?' said the King 'whom do you advise me to marry? I have made my choice. Now make yours. You cannot talk about marriage in the air—in the abstract. Come down to tin tacks. Name your lady.'

'But the cabinet has not considered that. You are not playing the game, sir,' said the Prime Minister. 'You mean that I am beating you at it,' said the King. 'I mean to. I thought I should.'

'Not at all, sir. But I cannot choose a wife for you, can I?' said the Prime Minister.

'Then you cannot advise me on the subject', said the King. 'And if you cannot advise me, I cannot act by your advice.'

'This seems to me to be a quibble, said the Prime Minister. 'I should never have expected it

know very well what I mean. Somebody of royal stock. Not American.'

'At last we have something definite', said the King. 'The Prime Minister of England publicly classes Americans as untouchables. You insult the nation on whose friendship and Kinship the existence of my Empire in the least finally depends.

'All my wisest political friends regard a marriage between a British King and an American lady as a masterstroke of policy.'

'I should not have said that,' said the Prime Minister. 'It was a slip of the tongue.'

'Very well; we will wash that out, said the King.

'But you still want a bride of royal stock. You are dreaming of a seventeenth-century dynastic marriage.

I, the King of England and Emperor of Britain, am to go a-begging through Europe for some cousin, five or six times removed, of a dethroned down-and-out Bourbon, or Habsburg, or Hohenzollern, or Romanoff, about whom nobody in this country or anywhere else cares one single dump.

'I shall do nothing so unpopular and so silly. If you are still living in the seventeenth century I am living in the twentieth.

'I am living in a world of republics, of mighty Powers governed by ex-house planters, stonemasons, promoted ranker soldiers, sons of operators in boot factories. Am I to marry one of their daughters ?

'Choose my father-in-law for yourself. There is the Shah

of Persia. There is Effendi Whataturk. There is Signor Bombardone. There is Herr Battler. There is the steel king of Russia. That is the royal stock of to-day.

I wonder would any of these great rulers allow a relative of his to marry an old-fashioned King ? I doubt it.

I tell you there is not a royal house left in Europe to-day into which I could marry without weakening England's position and if you don't know that you don't know anything.

'You seem to me to be entirely mad,' said the Prime Minister.

'To a little London clique some two or three centuries behind the times I no doubt seem, said the King. 'The modern world knows better. However, we need not argue about that. Name your lady.'

'I cannot think of any body at the moment,' said the Prime Minister, though there must be lots available.

'Can you suggest anyone,' Archbishop ?

'No ; the unexpectedness of the demand leaves my mind a blank, said the Archbishop. 'I think we had better discuss the possibility of an abdication.'

'Yes, yes, said the Prime Minister. 'Your Majesty must abdicate. That will settle the whole question and get us out of all our difficulties.'

'My sense of public duty, to which your friends appeal so movingly, will hardly allow me to desert my post without the smallest excuse for such an act,' said the King.

'Your throne will be shaken to its foundations,' said the Archbishop.

'That is my look-out,' said the King, as I happen to be sitting on it.'

'But what will happen to the foundations of the Church if it tries to force me to contract a loveless marriage and to live in adultery with the woman I really love?'

'You need not do that,' said the Archbishop.

'You know that I will,' said the King, if I listen to your counsel. Dare you persist in it?'

'I really think, P. M., that we had better go,' said the Archbishop. If I were superstitious I should be tempted to believe that the devil was putting all these arguments into his majesty's head.

'They are unanswerable; and yet they are so entirely of the track of English educated thought that they do not really belong to your world and mine.'

'Besides,' said the King, rising as his two visitors rose, my brother," who would succeed me, might strongly object. And he is married to a home-grown lady, who is more popular than any foreign ex-princess could be.

'And he would never be the real thing as long as I was in the office.'

'You would have to cut my head off.'

'You can't tomfool with the throne; you must either abolish it or respect it.'

'You have said enough, sir,' said the Prime Minister. 'Spare me any more.'

'Stay for lunch both of you,' said the King. Daisy will be there. Or must I make it a command?'

'It is past my lunch hour; and I am very hungry,' said the Archbishop. 'If it is a command I shall not demur.'

As they went downstairs to the dining-room, the King whispered to the stricken Prime Minister. 'I warn you, my dear Goldwyn, that if you take up my challenge and name your lady, her photograph shall appear in all the papers next day with Daisy's beside it, Daisy and her little dog.'

The Prime Minister shook his head sadly; and so they went in to lunch together.

The Prime Minister ate hardly anything, but the Archishop left nothing on his plate.

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